

route NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Sarjeant 'planned to kill Queen' by 1.7c

Marcus Sarjeant, 17, who admitted firing blank shots at the Queen during this year's Trooping the Colour, had planned for some time to assassinate her in Old Bailey court heard yesterday.

Sarjeant "fell back" on an imitation gun when he was unable to obtain a "suitably lethal" weapon. He was jailed for five years.

Healey threat

Denis Healey said he would not serve a Labour Government committed to a manifesto declaring unilateral disarmament. Union backing. Page 11

Haig denial

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig denied reports in Bonn that the U.S. planned to delay the deployment of Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe. Back Page

SA sanction call

The U.N. general assembly in a 117 to 0 vote called on the security council to impose mandatory sanctions against South Africa for failing to grant Namibian independence.

Gandhi accused

Indian parliament broke up in uproar when opposition leaders accused Mrs Gandhi of a breach of privilege over illegal fund raising. Page 5

Polish coal boost

A Polish scheme to boost coal output has prompted 7,500 civilians and 2,500 soldiers to volunteer to go underground. Page 3

IRA to protest

IRA supporters in Australia plan protests against the Queen and Mrs Thatcher when they arrive for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in two weeks.

Japan arms plan

Japan is to develop four new weapons systems, including a ground-to-surface missile and a laser-guided anti-tank missile at a total cost of \$142m.

Neutron decision

France said it had decided to pursue research into neutron weapons in the light of the U.S. decision to build them and a Soviet claim it could produce them.

E. Germans flee

Two East German couples and their two children fled to West Germany by sailing across the southern edge of the Baltic Sea.

3 die in crash

Three people were killed and at least one injured in a multiple accident involving an articulated lorry on the M3 in Hampshire.

Italians remanded

Italy is expected to seek the extradition of seven Italians remanded in custody at Bow Street, London. The seven face a charge of robbery with violence.

Emmy award

Vanessa Redgrave won an Emmy, U.S. television's highest award, for her role as a Nazi concentration camp victim in Arthur Miller's Playing for Time.

Briefly ...

Greek premier George Rallis resigned to make way for elections on October 18.

Soviet woman celebrating her 130th birthday was joined by 67 friends all over 100.

Manpower Services Commission said \$589,000 will be spent to help 250 unemployed youngsters in Bristol.

Earthquake killed more than 50 in northern Pakistan.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

	RISES	FALLS	
Abbey Panels	85d + 13d	Treas. 11.4p 1985. 380d - 1	
Bulmer (H. P.)	272 + 8	Treas. 15.4p 1985. 380d - 1	
Channel Tunnel	225 + 57	General Accident	358 - 8
Currys	198 + 6	GEC	745 - 13
Dunbar	550 + 35	Globo	384 - 12
Fleet Street Letter	99 + 6	Grant Brothers	175 - 21
Grippers	118 + 14	GRE	336 - 10
Hall (M.)	198 + 7	ICI	274 - 4
Hiltons Footwear	104 + 8	ICL	274 - 4
Medminster	72 + 5	ICL	274 - 4
Monk (A.)	67 + 5	ICL	274 - 4
Tunnel B	490 + 21	ICL	274 - 4
Vinter	352 + 8	ICL	274 - 4
Ward (T. W.)	154 + 5	ICL	274 - 4
Whatman Reeve Al	185 + 7	ICL	274 - 4
Sovereign Oil	360 + 15	ICL	274 - 4
Emperor Mines	135 + 15	Whitbread A	167 - 8

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Reshuffle hardens Thatcher grip on strategy

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY EDITOR

THE Prime Minister strengthened her personal authority over the Cabinet yesterday with a substantial reshuffle that gives the right a firmer grip on Government economic and industrial strategy.

On the same day the Government's anti-inflationary policy was forcefully reaffirmed with the decision to raise interest rates.

Two Cabinet newcomers are Mr Norman Tebbit, who becomes Employment Secretary, and Mr Nigel Lawson, the new Energy Secretary. Both are unequivocally on the Tory right.

The balance in the Cabinet is further altered by the dismissal of three ministers critical of many of Mrs Thatcher's policies.

Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal and Deputy Foreign Secretary, and Mr Mark Carlisle, Education Secretary.

Mr James Prior had warned that he would refuse a switch from Employment to the Northern Ireland Office because it would take him away from economic decision-making. But accepted the Ulster offer after much heart-searching.

He will remain on the Cabinet economic committee but Mr Prior has undoubtedly suffered a loss of influence.

His unusual public bargaining tactics over the weekend presented Mrs Thatcher with an acute dilemma. She could either stand firm and face the damage

prospect of Mr Prior's resignation, or she could leave him at Employment and be accused of bowing to threats. Her decision was to stand by her original offer of the Northern Ireland Office, with no alternative.

The emphatic message of the reshuffle, which was more widespread than anticipated, is that the Prime Minister intends to fulfil her manifesto commitments and to maintain the economic strategy laid down when she took office.

There will be no change of course under her new team which will take the Conservative

Party as well as the Cabinet has

also been strengthened with the choice of Mr Cecil Parkinson, formerly Employment Minister, who succeeds the retiring Lord Thornycroft as party chairman.

Mr Prior also becomes Paymaster-General and will attend Cabinet meetings.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Dutch Labour Party faces split over nuclear protest

BY CHARLES BACHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

THE NETHERLANDS Labour Party is threatened with a split over the issue of nuclear energy only days after the party reached agreement on a new Government coalition. Mr Joop den Uyl, the party leader, is a Deputy Prime Minister.

The row over nuclear energy has strengthened fears that the party made too many compromises with the Christian Democrats to get into Government and that the leadership is out of touch with grass-roots opinion.

The magazine of the parliamentary party, *Voorwaarts*, which is the responsibility of the leader of the parliamentary party, Mr Max van den Berg, has called for party members to support a planned blockade of the Dodewaard power station. Protest groups have for several months been planning to block the access roads to the power station for a week starting on Saturday.

The policy of the Labour Party is to shut down Dodewaard, a small experimental power station with only 54 Mw capacity, and Borssele, a commercial station of 450 Mw, and to rely on conventional sources of power. Nuclear plants provide only half a per cent of the country's energy.

But in negotiations with the Christian Democrats and Democrats 66, Labour's partners in the new Government, the party was forced to drop this demand. The new Administration is only committed to carrying out a six-month study of nuclear power.



Mr. den Uyl: may face grass-roots anger

Final responsibility for controlling the proposed blockade lies with the Interior Minister, the Labour Party politician Mr. van Thijn.

The right to demonstrate is a basic freedom, Mr. van Thijn said in a radio interview, but the workforce of Dodewaard has the right to carry out its work in safety. The authorities could not allow Dodewaard to be shut down, he said.

Mr. van den Berg, who represents the more radical wing of the Labour Party, has since made clear that he is opposed to illegal action by the protesters and to any use of force.

80% rise in Bonn payments

BY OUR BONN CORRESPONDENT

WEST GERMANY'S net contributions to the European Community budget rose by nearly 80 per cent in the first half of this year against the same period of 1980 to DM 3.04bn (f685m).

This emerges from balance of payments figures released by the Bundesbank and reflects in part the increased German contribution arising out of last year's budgetary settlement with Britain.

The indications are that the German net contribution for the

whole year will be between DM 6bn and DM 7bn, compared with a net figure of DM 4.8bn for 1980.

This sharp rise is bound to be underlined in Brussels when Bonn presents its case for budgetary savings and for a limitation on its net payments.

The budget issue will also be under scrutiny at a meeting of the Cabinet this Friday devoted solely to European Community matters. The meeting had been scheduled for September 27, but has been brought forward.

West German economic upswing is elusive

LIKE A will o'the wisp, the West German economic upswing always seems just another step away.

It was once hoped that signs of an upturn might emerge in the second half of this year. Now they are due next year but then, we are told, they will be unmistakable. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Bonn Government, as well as several economic institutes and banks seem fairly confident that the economy can grow by about 2 per cent in real terms (after inflation) in 1982.

Why should one believe them? After all, real Gross National Product (GNP) which increased by 3.6 per cent and 0.2 per cent in the two halves of last year (against the same periods in 1980), fell by 1.3 per cent in the first half of this year. A total of 1.3m people were unemployed in August—a jobless rate of 5.5 per cent against one of 3.7 per cent a year earlier.

The level of industrial production and use of capacity are low and company profits are being squeezed. Nearly 800 enterprises declared themselves insolvent in July alone—50 per cent more than a year ago.

The Bonn Government is confident that the economy can grow by 2 per cent next year, but high U.S. interest rates may harm export prospects, writes Jonathan Carr

The setback to growth in the first half of this year was actually less bad than some pessimists feared—thanks in particular to an unusually strong surge in exports. The visible trade surplus in the first seven months totalled about DM 10bn (£2.2bn) compared with only DM 4.5bn in the same period of 1980. This is in spite of worsening terms of trade. For example, West Germany is importing less oil by volume this year but paying much more for it.

The figures for industrial orders indicate that this trend will continue. In the first quarter of this year, foreign orders rose by 2 per cent in real terms against the same period in 1980, in the second quarter by 6 per cent—and in July alone by nearly 20 per cent (while domestic demand was down by nearly 5 per cent). In these circumstances, the

recent projection by the IFO Economic Research Institute of a total trade surplus of some DM 17bn this year (about double last year's figure) looks realistic. The IFO also suggests that the surplus next year could rise to DM 28bn, thus cutting the current account deficit to about DM 15bn (or less than half the 1980 figure). The Government feels these conclusions are optimistic—but it agrees with their general line.

This has major implications for the D-Mark and the battle against inflation. A key reason for the export surge has been the competitive edge West German goods have gained from the sharp fall of the currency, by nearly 30 per cent since the start of last year against the dollar and by more than that against the yen.

An improvement in trade and the current account is likely to boost the D-Mark

next year and so relieve pressure on the capital market. Even in the unlikely event of those steps being carried out exactly as planned, developments in the U.S. will be decisive. A higher U.S. budget deficit than expected, bringing continuing high U.S. interest rates, would not only reduce the Bundesbank's scope for cutting rates at home, but also reduce West German export prospects to those countries whose economies are also being depressed by high rates. They include the EEC states with whom Bonn does more than half its trade.

Even if West Germany does achieve 2 per cent growth next year, unemployment will rise further. This is partly because much of the growth would emerge from increases in productivity, and partly because more people are coming on to the labour market.

Many of them are the children of foreign "guest workers" who are seeking better jobs than the ones their parents were prepared to do.

With an average of 1.6m jobless next year, West Germany would still have markedly fewer unemployed than Britain or France. But the potential for social unrest is serious all the same.

Financial problems and manipulation of raw materials and agricultural markets.

Herr Honecker agreed to a joint communiqué said two countries had reached "complete understanding" everything from the Nato-South relationship to disarmament. East Germany last conducted only slightly more than 100m marks (£22) worth of trade with Mexico, only 5 per cent of its total with developing countries.

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Honecker Mexico visit leads to accords

By Leslie Collett in Berlin

EAST GERMANY is banking on the success of its latest to a developing country. On the doorstep of the U.S.,

Erich Honecker, East Germany's Communist leader, President, has returned to the State visit to Mexico, resulted in the most extensive series of agreements between the country and a Warsaw member.

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Rallis resigns today in readiness for elections

BY VICTOR WALKER IN ATHENS

THE GREEK Government headed by Mr George Rallis is due to resign today to make way for a caretaker Government which will conduct general elections which is still running at over 20 per cent for third consecutive year.

The Government to be sworn in on Thursday will again be headed by Mr Rallis but will include four non-party Ministers holding the portfolios of the Interior, Justice, Public Order and Press and Information. This is usual practice in Greece, as additional insurance of the irreproachability of elections.

Parliament will be dissolved on Saturday, officially launching the four weeks' campaign.

The main foreign policy issues will be Greece's continued membership of the European Economic Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, both of which are opposed by the opposition Panhellenic Socialist Movement of Professor Andreas Papandreou, and the Moscow-line Greek Communist Party (KKE), which together polled 35 per cent of the votes

in the 1977 elections.

On the home front, the main issue will be the economic situation and in particular inflation, which is still running at over 20 per cent for third consecutive year.

Indicating the importance attached by the Government to Greece's EEC membership, Mr Rallis said over the weekend that in the event of his party's failing to secure an overall majority it would be prepared to enter a coalition only if the co-operating party or parties fully accepted the EEC accession treaty and agreed that Greece should stay in Nato.

Economically, the Prime Minister said, Greece had no future outside the EEC, while its departure from Nato would upset the balance of power in South-east Europe.

Defending his government's economic record, Mr Rallis said Greece's growth rate this year would be between 1.5 and 2 per cent.

Lisbon forecasts modest growth

BY DIANA SMITH IN LISBON

PORTUGAL must accept more modest economic growth for the time being, although entry into the European Common Market on a reasonably strong footing remains an absolute priority.

That is the basic message of a 170-page government programme presented to Parliament yesterday by Sr Francisco Pinto Balsemao, the Prime Minister. Sr Balsemao's second cabinet of Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Monarchs and Independents was sworn in earlier this month.

The programme emphasises that the international recession, the strong dollar and high interest rates leave no option, but to try to balance austerity with selective spurts to investment in top priority areas of agriculture, exports, import substitution and tourism.

The reformist and austerity-minded stamp of the new Economy Minister, Sr Joao Salgueiro, is evident in the 64 pages dedicated to recovery and development of the

programme.

The programme makes clear that there will be others.

The programme hints that the nationalised banks will be "readjusted".

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Cordial opening to talks on EEC reform

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

FOREIGN Ministers of the European Community agreed yesterday to work hard for early agreement in the most ambitious reform attempt in the community's history despite the emergence of some obvious differences of priority.

The Ministers appeared anxious to avoid an early display of differences and reluctant to establish fixed positions on the issues of changing the Common Agricultural Policy and reforming the EEC budget.

But the real negotiations will be taken up from today by the mandate group, chiefly comprising the ten ambassadors to the EEC. In a series of weekly meetings, they will try to prepare the main lines of agreement on developing existing and new common policies, changes to the CAP and new budgetary arrangements for the Heads of Government in London in November.

All delegations found the European Commission's reform

proposals, published at the end of June, a basis for negotiations. But some strong reservations emerged.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the British Foreign Office, was tepid about the Commission's suggested mechanism for cutting Britain's payments to the EEC budget. He found "interesting" the commission's idea for financing rebates to the UK by reducing other countries' CAP receipts, but obviously preferred an unspecified arrangement which would decide "how the budget as a whole should affect the individual member state."

M. André Charnier, France's Minister for European Affairs, acknowledged that the CAP must be re-organised and that budgetary distortions must be examined.

Both Mr Hurd and the West German Minister, Herr Peter Corterier were firm in insisting that the 1 per cent value added tax ceiling on the EEC's budget must be maintained.

French concessions ease negotiations with Spain

BY OUR BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT

A CHANGE of position by France yesterday enabled the European Community to maintain the appearance of wanting to carry forward negotiations on Spanish membership.

At the same time, France, with Italy in support, blocked, for the time being, the prospect of EEC trade concessions to Cyprus.

These developments, at a meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers, highlighted, once again, the way in which the Community's current internal debates on agricultural and budgetary reform are freezing relations with some third countries.

In particular, the gap between rhetoric on the desirability of Spanish membership and actual performance in negotiations has seemed to be getting wider over the past nine months. This has clearly impressed itself on the new

Government in Paris, whose

tactical concessions yesterday

will at least enable the EEC to

table some proposals at ministerial level talks next month.

These will largely concern the

statutes by which Spain ad

the Community should establish a customs unions and by which Spain should apply the EEC's common external tariff.

France had been demanding

that Spain should first undertake to introduce the value-added tax system, by the time of its accession. But that demand will now be tabled with the customs union proposals.

France is continuing to insist that the EEC must sort out the main lines of change to its Common Agricultural Policy before negotiating the agricultural details of Spanish membership.

But M André Charnier, France's Minister for European Affairs, did give the go-ahead for talks on subsidiary technical matters.

Italian jobless over 2m

By James Buxton in Rome

FRESH EVIDENCE of the effects of the recession on the Italian economy came yesterday with the announcement that the number of people seeking work passed 2m for the first time in July. This was an increase of about 200,000 over the figure for July 1980.

The official unemployment figure has remained fairly static for the past few months at about 1.5m, representing 8.8 per cent of the workforce. But the number of those seeking jobs has been swollen by the arrival of nearly 600,000 school and university leavers. Some 74 per cent of those seeking jobs are aged under 30.

The unemployment rate is 6.8 per cent in the Centre and North, against 13 per cent in the South. One of the blackest spots is Naples. Two policemen were wounded there yesterday when a mob of unemployed attacked a labour exchange.

The maintenance of a high level of employment is a priority for the Government as it resumes talks later this week with the trade unions and employers on curbing inflation.

PARIS — French Communist

leaders have criticised Govern-

ment policies and given warn-

ing that their support for the

Administration of President

François Mitterrand is con-

ditional.

In separate public statements

M Georges Marchais, the Com-

munist leader, and M Roland

Leroy, editor of the party

newspaper, indicated that they

expected urgent measures to

combat unemployment and in-

flation.

M Marchais said in a tele-

vision interview that the Govern-

ment's nationalisation plans

were insufficient, and that a

wealth tax planned by the Prime

Minister was inadequate.

M Leroy, speaking at a rally,

said Communists with their four

Ministers were participating in

the Government, "but are not

a party of government". Nor

would Communists be unconven-

tional advocates of the Govern-

ment.

Both leaders argued that the

Socialists had won the elections

because of the support of millions of Communists. Asked how

long the Communists would

stay in the Cabinet, M Marchais

said: "We are in the Govern-

ment determined to do every-

thing to make it succeed.

Reuter

Mr Falldin is trying to regain credibility, writes William Dullforce in Stockholm

Sweden devalues to halt economic decline

SWEDEN'S DEVALUATION of the krona yesterday accompanied by measures to dampen inflation and stimulate industrial output represents the Government's final effort to stop a deterioration in the country's economic performance which started during the early 1970s.

If this package does not work, the Swedish voters at the general election next September will certainly return the ruling Liberal alliance to the political wilderness from which it emerged six years ago, when it broke 44 years of Social Democratic rule.

The devaluation is a bold move by Mr Thorbjörn Falldin, the Prime Minister, and his minority Centre-Party-Liberals Cabinet to restore the non-socialists' credibility and regain the public support the alliance has lost since the last election.

During the past eight years, Sweden has had one of the poorest economic records among industrial countries, although it has avoided mass unemployment.

Development (OECD) report on the Swedish economy reported an increase in public sector employment from 20.6 per cent of total employment in 1970 to 29.8 per cent in 1978, a level far above those reached in other OECD countries. During the same period, business investment in Sweden tumbled from 10.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 8.9 per cent, the lowest in the OECD.

Public spending has been growing by leaps and bounds, partly boosted by Government subsidies to ailing industries to reach 64 per cent of GDP last year and an estimated 67 per cent this year.

At the same time, the Government's deficit has climbed to SKr 70bn (£7.5bn) or 12.4 per cent of GDP, in spite of efforts to reverse the trend. The massive growth in the public sector and in the budget deficit has crowded out the labour and capital markets.

Meanwhile, heavy taxes have

boosted wage demands, curbed company profits and contributed to the steady decline in the competitiveness of Swedish industry.

Employers and the blue-collar trade union federation reached a two-year national pay agreement in February, providing for what seemed to be "moderate" wage increases of 7 per cent this year and 6 per cent in 1982.

In June, however, the Federation of Swedish Industries pointed out that unit costs of production would not improve compared with Sweden's main competitors. Moreover, the rise of the krona against most West European currencies as a result of the pull of the dollar meant that Swedish industrial costs were growing faster than those of its European competitors.

The export industry would

continue to lose market shares

and there was a serious risk

that a further substantial part

of industry would be knocked

out, the federation warned. It

suggested that the Government should reduce employers' social security charges, try for a social contract on national wage and salary cuts, or devalue the krona. The Government has plumped for devaluation as the medicine likely to work most quickly.

It has also taken the unusual course of combining devaluation with a reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT). In economic theory, an increase in VAT to hold back consumption would be the orthodox accompaniment to devaluation.

The cut in VAT has been interpreted as compensation to wage-earners for the loss in purchasing power caused by devaluation and is intended to stop the price index exceeding the threshold which would trigger new wage demands.

Government economists see Falldin as taking a bold and unorthodox gamble.



Thorbjörn Falldin: a bold gamble

Government's leverage to effect cuts in public spending, which it would otherwise not have dared to make for fear that it would be accused of creating unemployment. Falldin is taking a bold and unorthodox gamble.

10,000 Poles volunteer to work in coal mines

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

TEN THOUSAND Poles have volunteered to work in the coal mines rather than do military service.

A scheme aimed at boosting coal output has produced 7,500 civilian volunteers

and a further 2,500 soldiers

who have opted out of the forces

to go underground.

Polish coal mines have long suffered from a shortage of labour and the five-day week won by miners last autumn means that any plans to increase production hinge on additional workers. Coal production this year is 20 per cent down on 1980 and has led to costly cuts in export earnings and internal deliveries.

Total employment in the mines stands at 376,000 of which 239,000 work underground. There are 18,000 job vacancies.

A spokesman for the mining

section of the Solidarity union

yesterday welcomed the new

scheme, controlled by the Solidarity

national congress which is due to meet at the end of the month. He predicted that the authorities were unlikely to give way without a struggle and that a general strike on the issue was possible.

Warsaw factory workers yes-

terday responded to concerted

attacks from Communist controlled

Solidarity

factory workers to Poland to see Solidarity in action.

An open letter said a visit

would enable the Russians to make a proper judgment.

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AMERICAN NEWS

Regan rejects calls for U.S. credit controls

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

MR DONALD REGAN, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, yesterday rejected calls for credit controls to force down interest rates by restricting demand for finance.

Speaking in Chicago, he launched a major new drive to deregulate the American financial system. Mr Regan said that credit controls had never worked in the past and would not work now. They were an inefficient substitute for the marketplace and would lead to the sort of stop-and-go tinkering with the economy that had caused last year's high inflation.

Appeals for direct action to curb interest rates were made by a number of congressmen on their return to Washington from holiday last week. They were alarmed by the concern about interest rates they had found among their constituents.

Mr Regan said the best way to get interest rates down was to stick to President Reagan's economic programme—to lower inflation, to increase productivity and to encourage savings and investment.

In a series of speeches, Mr

WALL STREET retreated sharply when trading opened yesterday, signalling its disappointment with the modest military spending cuts announced by President Reagan over the weekend. David Lasselle writes from New York.

Bond prices, currently the best barometer of the market's mood, dropped by a point and short-term interest rates edged up again. Stock prices also dropped.

The financial community had hoped Mr Regan would slash several times the \$1.3bn (£2.3bn) he has cut from military spending plans over the next three years in his efforts to bring the federal budget into balance by 1984. As Wall Street sees it, the size of the cuts means Mr Regan will have to find the

rest of his savings in the politically-sensitive social programmes, which will be much harder.

The prospects for a sustained drop in interest rates still rise by more than \$650bn between now and 1984, Mr Regan said. This, together with continuing control over the growth of spending, should bring the deficits under control.

"We have chosen to balance the budget through real growth, not through tax increases and inflation," he said.

In Chicago, Mr Regan called for a national debate on deregulating the country's financial system, which he said was governed by totally out-of-date

Mr Regan said four major sets of regulations needed looking at: restrictions on interest rates originally intended to protect savings and loans institutions from competition, regulations that attempted to limit different types of financial institutions to specific activities, geographic limitations on banks and the growth of the regulatory agencies

unreasonable nervousness about short-term changes in the money supply.

Under the Reagan tax-cutting programme, tax receipts would still rise by more than \$650bn between now and 1984, Mr Regan said. This, together with continuing control over the growth of spending, should bring the deficits under control.

"We have chosen to balance the budget through real growth, not through tax increases and inflation," he said.

In Chicago, Mr Regan called for a national debate on deregulating the country's financial system, which he said was governed by totally out-of-date

Mr Regan said four major sets of regulations needed looking at: restrictions on interest rates originally intended to protect savings and loans institutions from competition, regulations that attempted to limit different types of financial institutions to specific activities, geographic limitations on banks and the growth of the regulatory agencies

the Government.

He argued that the sorry state of Wall Street and the financial markets was not due to concern about the budget deficit, but to

Foreign loans give Jamaica the kiss of life, writes Canute James in Kingston

Seaga seeks to resuscitate ailing economy

MR EDWARD SEAGA, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, is quite candid about the state of the island's economy and what his Government has to do to pull it out of a slump.

"We are not involved in giving birth to a new child. We are involved in reviving the dead," Mr Seaga said recently of the Jamaican economy.

His efforts at resuscitation are apparently being successful. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Bank of Jamaica reported recently that the Jamaican economy could record real growth this year. Mr Seaga said that at worst, the economy could record zero growth this year, and at best in excess of 2 per cent.

If even the more modest forecast is realised, it will be no small feat by Mr Seaga's 10-month old administration. The Jamaican economy declined by 5.4 per cent last year, the seventh consecutive year of decline.

When the present Government replaced the Social Democratic administration of Mr Michael Manley last October, Mr Seaga, who is also Finance Minister, inherited an economy

which bankers said was on the verge of collapse. An increasing oil bill, servicing a \$1.6bn (£880m) foreign debt, with stable and declining earnings from exports left Jamaica chronically short of foreign exchange to finance imports.

Arrears on short-term payments stood at \$550m (£302m). There were shortages of imported consumer goods including food and the manufacturing sector, faced with an inability to import raw material and machinery, was operating at only 40 per cent capacity.

Now, says the Prime Minister, the IMF and the Central Bank report that there has been significant growth in the construction sector, non-government services, the distributive trades, manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries. Total exports have increased by 9 per cent in the first six months of this year. Tourism, Jamaica's largest foreign currency earner (\$241.7m last year) increased by 10 per cent in July and 15.5 per cent last month, over the same period last year.

The IMF and Central Bank projections were made public a. many which comprise the

few days after the Bank of Jamaica had reported that the performance of the economy in the first five months of this year had been "disappointing" and that the economy was "depressed." The bank said afterwards, however, that there had been signs of recovery since April, which marks the start of the Government's efforts to rebuild the economy.

The first kiss of life for the island's economy came from the IMF, after the Prime Minister sought to improve relations with the fund, broken off last year by his predecessor. Mr Manley had unilaterally terminated talks with the IMF on new loans, saying its conditions would worsen Jamaica's economy.

With the rupture, sources of foreign financial support dried up.

Jamaica has since obtained a \$650m three-year extended fund facility from the IMF and a \$48m compensatory financing facility.

The second kiss of life is coming from several Western countries, including the U.S., Canada, Britain and West Germany. All this is expected to hasten economic recovery, but the Government feels that the funds are not coming in fast enough. Although it will have access to just under \$1bn in loans this year, most of this will be available only in the last few months of the year. Conse-

quently, Jamaica has obtained bridging finance in the form of 180-day credits from some North American banks.

Several banks, over several million dollars by the island, recently agreed to refinance \$103m of the loans, and grant a new \$70m loan.

Such positive indications, with Mr Seaga's optimism about the ability of the economy to recover, are threatened by factors over which the Government has very little control...

Tourism, for example, although expected to do better than last year, is suffering from the U.S. air traffic controllers' dispute and the growing strength of the dollar against European currencies.

The Bauxite industry, the island's second major foreign currency earner will decline this year, after earning \$205m last year.

All this is expected to hasten economic recovery, but the Government feels that the funds are not coming in fast enough.

Although it will have access to just under \$1bn in loans this year, most of this will be available only in the last few months of the year. Conse-

Springboks avoid protesters in U.S.

CHICAGO — The South African Springbok rugby team slipped quietly into the United States yesterday evading the anti-apartheid protests that accompanied its controversial tour of New Zealand.

The Springboks flew un-

announced into Chicago shortly after daybreak without a single demonstrator in sight.

Opponents of the tour waited in vain in Los Angeles to protest against the arrival of the South Africans, who are in the U.S. to play three games on the way home from New Zealand.

They switched planes in Honolulu, boarded an American Airlines flight bound for Chicago and never left the aircraft when it stopped in Los Angeles.

Although their travel plans were kept secret, several television cameras, Press photographers and a handful of reporters were on hand when the 36-member South African party arrived at Chicago's O'Hare airport.

Mr Johannes Classen, team manager, said they had not expected to be met. He told the Press: "We're tired but we're happy to be here."

Asked about the possibility that the Springboks' U.S. tour could lead to a boycott of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics by the Soviet Union and black African countries, Mr Classen said: "We're here to play rugby, not to get involved in politics."

Mr Tom Bradley, Los Angeles Mayor, and the Los Angeles Olympic organising committee both urged the U.S. Government to ban the South African team because of a possible boycott.

Reuter

Study criticises

U.S. N-plants

THE NUCLEAR Regulatory Commission, which regulates the U.S. nuclear industry, has found that 15 of the country's 50 nuclear power plants are "below average" in overall performance, reports

Paul Bettis from New York.

The findings follow a study completed at the end of last year by the commission's

Reagan starts to lobby senators over Awacs deal

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan yesterday opened his personal lobbying campaign to persuade the U.S. Congress to approve the sale of \$8.5bn (£4.6bn) worth of Awacs (Advanced Warning and Control Systems) radar aircraft and jet fighter equipment to Saudi Arabia.

The White House has virtually abandoned hope already of getting the Awacs deal past the House, where traditional pro-Israeli sympathy coincided with an opposition Democratic majority of 50 seats.

On his current trip to the U.S., Mr Begin stopped short of calling on Congress outright to veto the Awacs deal, unusual inhibition for the forthright Israeli Premier.

Mr Begin apparently judged that such a call might be irrelevant when he had just won from the Reagan Administration a promise of "strategic operation" against Soviet expansionism in the Middle East.

But Mr Begin stressed repeatedly his view that no effective link exists between Awacs and U.S.-Israel military operation. The latter was not compensation for the former, he said.

Israeli Labour Party attacks pact with U.S.

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S MAIN opposition party has sharply criticised Mr Menahem Begin, the Prime Minister, for agreeing to mute his opposition to the U.S.-Saudi Arabia arms deal in return for

an ill-defined agreement on strategic co-operation between the U.S. and Israel.

The opposition Labour Party's political committee said yesterday it regarded the outcome of the Premier's visit to Washington as "totally unacceptable and dangerous for Israel."

The proposed military strategic co-operation, which is still vague in nature, is being attacked here as more likely to tie Israel's hands than to provide real aid.

On the other hand, the Arab states have condemned the pact as likely to reinforce Israeli intransigence on the Palestinian issue.

The Prime Minister has suggested that the new co-operation would include American use of Israeli air and naval bases, stockpiling of arms here for use by the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, but under the control of Israel, and air cover for U.S. transport airifts when necessary.

The U.S. administration has however spoken of a much more modest programme including joint naval exercises, the pre-positioning of military medical supplies in Israel and some contingency planning for regional emergencies.

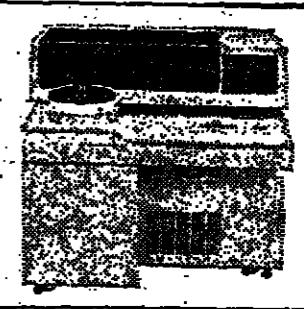
Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, said Mr Begin's handling of the Saudi arms deal was totally unacceptable "because for the first time an Arab country will be getting more sophisticated weaponry from Israel."

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Gandhi under fresh threat

By K. K. Sharma in New Delhi



Iran's army confident after year of war

By Terry Pavey, recently in Ahwaz

INDIAN OPPPOSITION leaders launched a fresh attack on Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, yesterday over alleged involvement in illegal fund-raising activities.

The opposition gave notice in the Lok Sabha (lower house) of a motion charging Mrs Gandhi with breach of privilege and an uproar that halted business for more than an hour.

The row, which has seriously embarrassed the Prime Minister and her ruling Congress Party, concerns allegedly illegal fund-raising activities by Mr A. R. Antulay, who was hand-picked by Mrs Gandhi as chief minister of the economically powerful Maharashtra state.

Mr Antulay is said to have established a number of trusts in Mrs Gandhi's name as a way of raising funds. The allegations reflect badly on Mrs Gandhi, and underscore concern about the way Mr Antulay and chief ministers in the eight other states where the Congress Party holds power have been conducting affairs.

Mrs Gandhi has chosen all the party's office-bearers, mainly on the grounds of loyalty to her. Political or administrative ability has been a secondary consideration, leading to claims that many are inept or corrupt.

Mr Gandhi has protected Mr Antulay, but observers think it is a matter of time before he is asked to resign. The Prime Minister has already dropped

End support for Mobutu, West urged

By David Buchan in Washington

THE WEST should abandon its "blind and uncritical" support of the regime in mineral-rich Zaire, Mr Nguzo Kari-Bond, President Mobutu's former Prime Minister and now his chief opponent in exile, will tell Congress today.

Mr Nguzo, who, with various interruptions, in jail served three times as President Mobutu's Foreign Minister before resigning this year as Prime Minister, hopes to convince the Reagan Administration that backing for the Mobutu regime no longer serves western interests.

Outlining the testimony he will give to the House Africa subcommittee today, Mr Nguzo charged that President Mobutu had broken the assurances given to the U.S. and Western powers to prevent a recurrence of the 1977 and 1978 Shaba insurrections.

Mr Nguzo has alleged that President Mobutu misappropriated more than \$100m (£56m) in international aid last year and complained that the International Monetary Fund's supervision of Zaire's Central bank and Finance Ministry had broken down.

Japan plans new weapons

TOKYO — The Japanese Defence Ministry plans four new weapons systems including a tank at a cost of Y58.5bn (£139m), the Ministry said.

A ground-to-ship missile is to be developed by 1987 at a cost of Y20bn with the help of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Mitsubishi Electric Corporation.

The Ministry is seeking an initial budget of Y7.8bn next year to develop a prototype missile within three years.

A battle tank will be developed at a cost of Y25bn

by 1988 to replace the tank now used by the army.

An initial budget of Y7.1bn is sought to build a prototype over three years from next year.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which makes the present tank, is expected to be main contractor, the Ministry said.

It plans to develop a laser-guided anti-tank missile at a cost of Y5.8bn by 1986.

A new system will be developed to mount the existing 35 mm anti-aircraft machine gun on tanks at a cost of Y5.5bn.

Reuter

THE NORTH-SOUTH DEBATE

Summit promises a new sense of direction

GOVERNMENTS WANDER today without a sense of economic direction. As the certitudes of the post-war era have one by one disappeared, heads of State seem to have lost their bearings. Countries are turning in upon themselves, failing to understand national problems in their international setting and failing to respond to them with an appreciation of overall global needs.

They were among the latest victims of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq now almost a year old.

The Opposition has made Mr R. Venkataaraman, the Finance Minister, and Mr Antulay the target of its attack so far. This is the first time it has bought Mrs Gandhi within its range.

The grounds for the motion are not known and a ruling on it by the Speaker is expected within days.

Mrs Gandhi has remained silent in the last couple of weeks that the scandal revolving around the fund raising has dominated proceedings in both Houses of Parliament.

She has been criticised for not clearing up the question of whether she consented to the trust being named after her. This was denied by Mr Venkataaraman last week and he faced a privilege motion when the English-language newspaper Indian Express published a photograph of Mrs Gandhi presiding over a function in Bombay when the trust was launched.

The chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) has not admitted the privilege motion, but the opposition yesterday persisted in its attempts to raise the issue.

Reference of the motion to the privileges committee would mean a parliamentary inquiry into the formation of the trusts.

Dialogue between developing nations and the industrialised world needs to return to the Keynesian economic internationalism of the post-war era, writes Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General (right). The North-South Summit in Mexico next month will have a special responsibility to improve negotiations between increasingly interdependent economies, he argues.



to the status quo. The most negative departmental view determines national positions and the most negative national position determines the North's collective stance.

When the industrialised countries proceed only at the pace of the slowest among them, is it any wonder that the North-South dialogue marks time? Progress is not helped by the contrastingly radical trend in the South, where the most radical position becomes the norm of the developing countries.

Cancun could be a truly creative occasion in human affairs. It will be the first time that the political leadership of so large a part of world society meets to consider jointly some of the major dangers facing mankind. The summit will include the world's major decision-makers, the very fact they are coming together inspires hope.

Spirit

There was a glimmer of recognition at the Ottawa Summit of industrialised countries that the crisis facing the North is bound up with the problems of the South. This fact must be more clearly recognised in Mexico and acted upon.

The nations meeting in "Cancun" must agree on the start of long deferred global negotiations. They must agree to work more assiduously than in the past for success in those negotiations. They must acknowledge that an acute economic crisis demands emergency action, particularly in the areas of trade, financial flows, energy and food. These nations must also agree to continue to work together, informally but with a sense of urgency.

Above all, this meeting must help the springs of political impulsion to flow again, help to revive the spirit of internationalism of the early post-war period, help to inspire an intellectual framework relevant to modern problems and world opportunities.

people in the developing countries can spend on survival.

Efforts were made in the 70s to negotiate changes in economic relationships which would lead to greater equity between nations. As the economic crisis deepened, it became clearer that such changes were necessary not only to help the poor but also to assist the rich. But it has been easier to agree upon the growing interdependence of the world economy than to face up to its implications.

To negotiate changes in economic relationships which would lead to greater equity between nations. As the economic crisis deepened, it became clearer that such changes were necessary not only to help the poor but also to assist the rich. But it has been easier to agree upon the growing interdependence of the world economy than to face up to its implications.

Why are countries still so committed to nationalism in this era of interdependence? One answer is that to win elections politicians feel compelled to promote better economic times. To project political machismo, they convince their electorates (and sometimes even themselves) that by their own unaided efforts, by the infallibility of their economic philosophy and its resolute translation through domestic policy,

they can deliver better times. To admit the relevance of the global factor is seen somehow to admit to being less than effective or to imply that their ideological platform may be flawed.

Current political management of the democratic process is leading it to work against internationalism. This is not only true in the North. Even in the South, where external constraints on development are so obvious, there are some who look askance at the external dimension. Hence the curious

points of contact between northern ideologues who disparage the North-South dialogue and those in the South who call for "delinking" from the global system.

Ritualistic

Inevitably, the South protests

against the lack of northern political will. But the politicians

are not always to blame. Powerful bureaucracies are wedded

to

the

status

quo.

The Commonwealth, which

Travelling across the province, one is struck by both the good spirits and the vastly improved organisation of its defenders.

"We are here to win the war and we will destroy the Iraq forces," said Lt. Col. Javad Hassibi, officer commanding the third brigade of Iran's 32nd division.

Looking down on Boston, a small town 20 kilometres from the border, Col Hassibi claimed: "It may take us time, but be sure we will win."

In the last eight months, Iranian forces have painstakingly gained ground in this region west of Ahwaz and around the much fought-over town of Susangerd. In a series of offensives spanning the last seven months, the most recent of which was 10 days ago, Iraqi forces have been pushed back some 40 kilometres.

The colonel said Iranian losses had been high. Iraqi counter-attacks have to be handled by the infantry and revolutionary guards, because "we can't afford to lose a single Chieftain tank."

As we crossed the desert plains in an armoured personnel carrier on the way to the forward position, Iraqi shells fell close by time and again. The smell of cordite lies heavily over the Iranian front line, manned mainly by revolutionary guards with the regular troops backing them up with artillery, tanks and mortars a little way behind. Down in the plains, a considerable number of Iranian tanks lay behind earth works ready for the next move forward.

Destroyed Soviet-built T-54 and T-62 tanks could be seen in quite large numbers. One officer said that in the latest push towards Boston 173 tanks had been knocked out, 200 soldiers killed, and a further 56 captured.

There seemed to be a restlessness among senior officers for a freer hand to pursue the war, rather than any feeling that political considerations would justify playing the matter quietly for the time being.

Further south around the oil city of Abadan, the front line seemed much quieter. Smoke from the giant refinery, still blazing after one year, rose up in three columns, but the city no longer seemed under threat.

After one year of shelling and the unavoidable neglect of war, it is clear that much damage has been done but that Abadan is not a destroyed city.

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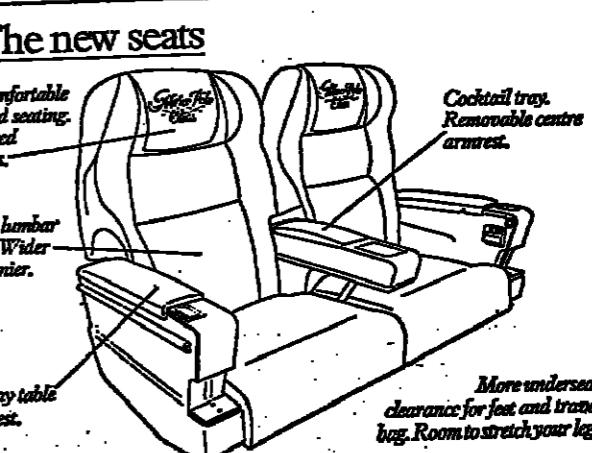
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WORLD TRADE NEWS

Dutch to double financing in Fokker-Douglas venture

BY CHARLES BACHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

THE DUTCH Government has prepared to provide F1.7bn (\$246m) worth of backing for the 150-seat airliner now being developed by Fokker and McDonnell Douglas of the U.S. This is more than twice the amount of F1.800m which the Government had said in May it was willing to supply.

Progress on the project has been so favourable that the Government is prepared at this stage to commit itself to considerable pre-financing, provided its conditions are ultimately met, Mr Gjjs Van Aardenne, the outgoing Minister of Economic Affairs said in a letter to the Standing Parliamentary Economic Committee.

The Government will provide F1.800m worth of credits and guarantee commercial loans of up to F1.900m, in the period 1983-1990, the Minister said. The loans will be repaid in the year.

Fokker will take the leading role in designing the new aircraft and in buying in components while McDonnell Douglas

will head the sales effort. The Minister revealed. This is the first concrete indication of how the two companies would share responsibility for the project.

The Government confirmed that the companies are for the time being still working on the basis that the MDF-100 will be assembled at two centres — one in the Netherlands and one in the U.S. Individual components will, however, come from only one source.

Good progress has been made in the four areas which the Dutch Government set as pre-conditions for its backing of the project, and work on designing the aircraft is well-advanced.

Fokker has agreed in principle to work with McDonnell Douglas, and the two companies have jointly asked a Japanese industrial consortium to cooperate. An answer from Japan is expected by the end of the year.

Swedes study Norway gas link

BY WESTERLY CHRISTNER IN STOCKHOLM

THE SWEDISH Government has commissioned the state power board, Vattenfall, to conduct a study on various ways of taking natural gas from northern Norway. The project is expected to cost about SKr 75m (\$8m) and take three years.

This spring, Norway and Sweden signed an energy-industry accord which includes sales of oil to Sweden—and which, presumably, would open the possibility of Sweden secur-

ing long-term gas deliveries on contract basis.

However, the Norwegian gas is not due to come into production until the beginning of the next decade.

Today, Sweden has no nationwide gas distribution infrastructure, although Sydgas, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the state-controlled Svenska Petroleum Energy Company and Norway's Statoil, is scheduled to present the first part of the study and findings to the Government next January.

Finns share Indian plant order

BY LANCE KEYWORTH IN HELSINKI

OUTOKUMPU OY of Finland and Voest-Alpine AG of Austria have together won an order from Orissa Mining Corporation of the U.S. for a ferro-chrome plant with a production capacity of 50,000 tonnes a year of charge grain ferro-chrome. Outokumpu's share of the project is valued at about FMK 35m (£4.4m). The contract is subject to Indian Government approval.

Outokumpu, the state-owned mining and refining company, has a ferro-chrome plant of about the same size in northern

Finland, and it is the process developed there that will be used in the Orissa project. The Finnish company has sold ferro-chrome plants to Greece, Turkey and the Philippines in the past two years.

The Finnish and Austrian companies have formed a consortium to manage the project. The daily production capacity of the machine will be 645 tonnes of 48.8 G/square metre basis weight newsprint. The rated speed is 20.3 metres per second.

Augusta Newsprint Company is a subsidiary of Abitibi Southern Corporation and Thomson Newspapers of Toronto.

has won an order for a newsprint machine from Augusta Newsprint Company of the U.S. The contract is valued at over FMK 100m. The machine is to be delivered in December 1982.

The daily production capacity of the machine will be 645 tonnes of 48.8 G/square metre basis weight newsprint. The rated speed is 20.3 metres per second.

This was after an estimated 24,500 vehicles had been shipped in the first seven months of this year, just under 1,000 less than in the whole of 1981.

£14m Hong Kong ship order goes to Britain

By Andrew Fisher,
Shipping Correspondent

BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS has won a £14m order from a Hong Kong shipping company bringing the total value of orders from shipowners in the Colony this year to £70m, representing nearly 200,000 deadweight tonnes.

The order, for two 15,000 dwt general cargo carriers, was placed with the state-owned UK company, by Carrion Shipping, British Shipbuilders' chairman, Mr Robert Atkinson, said.

The two vessels will be constructed by Smith's Dock of Middlesbrough. In July, Sunderland Shipbuilders announced a £12m order from the Hong Kong-based Klaichang Chellaram group for a 31,000 dwt bulk carrier.

Mr Atkinson said the order from Carrion would provide Smith's Dock with continuity of new shipbuilding work well through 1982. It also meant that workload prospects at the group's merchant yards were now more stable overall.

UK in fresh vehicle talks with Japan

By John Griffiths

BRITAIN'S Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and its Japanese counterpart, JAMA, are to hold further talks in London next week on the level of Japanese commercial vehicle imports to the UK.

The talks, at working-party level, follow on from the full-scale SMIT-JAMA talks at Sapporo in July, when the two sides failed to agree about a UK demand that Japanese makers restrict such imports.

Shipments of light commercials — Japan has agreed informally not to enter the market above 3.5 tonnes — were suspended last month.

This was after an estimated 24,500 vehicles had been shipped in the first seven months of this year, just under 1,000 less than in the whole of 1981.

INTERNATIONALLY we operate in three main areas: life assurance (54%), general and re-insurance (37%), and related sectors including mortgages, property development, even holiday centres (9%).

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OECD EXPORT CREDITS DISPUTE

Japan resists 'plan to boost rates'

BY CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR IN TOKYO

JAPAN is strongly resisting what it claims is a plan to discriminate against low-interest-rate countries in the forthcoming revision of the OECD code on the extension of export credit to developing countries.

The code, known as the Gentleman's Agreement, or the "consensus," specifies the minimum rates at which member countries "normally" finance exports of industrial plant and other bulky items, as well as limiting the periods over which loans can be repaid. Discussion has been under way for two years on an upward revision of Japan's rates which would partially close the gap between subsidised export finance and commercial lending rates in

OECD member countries.

Japan has objected to the increase on the ground that its own commercial lending rates would be lower than the proposed new Gentleman's Agreement rates. This would mean that the Japanese would, in effect, be charging a levy on export finance to developing countries while Japan's competitors in the West would be subsidising their loans.

Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry claims that the fairest solution to the export finance problem would be to introduce a differential rate system (DRS) under which each exporting country would be allowed to issue loans in its own currency at a fixed margin below its

commercial lending rate.

The Japanese admit that such a system would mean far cheaper loans from Japan than from other OECD member countries. They argue, however, that the attractions of cheap yen finance for importers would be partially counteracted by the deterrent of borrowing in a currency which is expected to appreciate.

Falling acceptance of the DRS Japan argues that countries with low commercial interest rates be entitled to charge those rates on plant export finance to developing countries and should not be forced to impose the higher rates set out in a new gentleman's agreement.

The Japanese oppose an EEC

proposal which would oblige low-interest-rate countries to add a specified margin to their commercial rates.

Japan and Switzerland are the only countries according to MITI which would be affected by the EEC proposal.

A decision on the matter is to be made at a meeting early next month at the OECD's Paris headquarters. Japan's commercial lending rates of around 8.5 per cent are roughly on a par with the rates set out in the OECD code, whereas U.S. rates are much higher. MITI officials believe the U.S. wants the new OECD rates to be set around the same level as the interest rate on U.S. Treasury bonds.

GATT may act over import curbs

BY PAUL CHEESRIGHT, RECENTLY IN STRESA, ITALY

INSPECTION TEAMS from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) might visit countries taking emergency action against foreign supplies to protect industry hurt by imports. They could check on particular domestic policies aimed at helping some industries to adjust to new levels of competition.

This suggestion, based on the precedent of International Monetary Fund teams scrutinising the economic policies of loan applicants, has been put forward by international economists meeting at the weekend in Stresa.

At a conference organised by the Trade Policy Research Centre of London, they were discussing the strains on the world trading system caused by protectionism and the sort of action legally open to countries seeking temporary relaxation of internationally agreed trading disciplines.

The meeting was called to make a contribution to the growing debate and to the independent preparatory thinking involved in the groundwork for the GATT ministerial conference, embracing 86 nations of the type which, for example, or the imposition of quotas has

under greater strain than at any time since the GATT was drawn up after World War II.

There has been a tendency to break away from the liberal trading disciplines embodied in the GATT. Alongside the formal agreement, a complex of parallel arrangements has developed which prevent the free movement of goods. This runs from the international multilateral arrangement (MFA), which effectively controls the textile exports of developing countries, to less formal accords of the type which, for example, define the Japanese share of the UK car market.

Open trade concept

Leaders of the major trading nations still espouse the concept of open trade which the GATT was designed to promote. But if the open trading system is to survive, many economists believe, it will be necessary both to reduce the number of trade restraints tied into the complex of parallel arrangements and to seek a new definition of the conditions under which restraints might be permissible.

This is the question of safeguards for domestic industry hurt by increased imports. The economists at Stresa were seeking to define a legal framework for the use of safeguards that would not at the same time retard the process of adjustment by industries which have lost their competitive edge.

The GATT already contains a safeguards clause, the vaguely worded Article 19. But it has not often been used.

Article 19 permits emergency action, usually withdrawal of tariff concessions or quotas, when imports cause serious damage to domestic industry. But injury is not defined and there is no time limit on the duration of emergency action. The withdrawal of tariff concessions or quotas has to be applied to all exporters of the given product and they must seek compensation.

The negotiation of compensation and the need to make the use of Article 19 generally rather than selectively has made it less attractive. It has usually been easier to work at the GATT rules and reach a bilateral agreement, thus eroding the fundamental principle of the GATT that a country should not discriminate between trading partners.

The economists at Stresa started from the point that, if the application of Article 19, the free trade principle must remain intact. But at the same time, in the interests of bringing the use of safeguards back into the international legal fold, they suggested that the compensation rule should be relaxed so that countries taking emergency

action would have, in effect, a free run for three years.

They further suggested:

• A definite time limit on emergency action which, if exceeded, would provoke retaliation.

• A clear statement of the circumstances leading to the emergency action with the nature of the injury to domestic industry aired at a public enquiry so consumers' views can be heard.

• The idea of the GATT inspection team to see, for example, that the protected industry is not increasing capacity.

• No use of quotas to protect industry, only tariffs, so that the costs of the emergency action are visible.

Immediate impetus

The immediate impetus towards devising an internationally agreed and workable Article 19 may come not from EEC or U.S. fears of Japanese competitiveness but from the textile producers of the developing world.

If the present negotiations for a new MFA break down which is possible, then developing countries may decide to abandon the arrangement altogether, throw over their restraint and take their chances in an open market.

Such a threat to the protected textile industries of the EEC should set off intense negotiations about application of safeguards.

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rates

terest rates, which would be specified by the EEC, and the rates in other countries, which would be set by the EEC.

curbs

would have been for three years, but the former suggested a five year time limit for any action that would be taken.

Statement

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BARCLAYS

UK NEWS

Financial Times reporters look at the personalities involved in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet reshuffle

Joseph seen as 'insensitive'

FEW INDUSTRIALISTS will mourn the removal last night of Sir Keith Joseph from the Department of Industry, where he has been Secretary of State since the general election. While some have recognised his honesty and intellectual approach, most have become frustrated by his refusal to face up to their detailed problems.

So they will welcome the change, even though few of them know much about his successor, Mr Patrick Jenkin, apart from the advice he gave during the 1973-74 miners' strike that people should conserve electricity by cleaning their teeth in the dark.

Sir Keith came to office, having designed the blueprint for the Conservative Government's economic policies, convinced that the rebirth of the entrepreneur would revive the flagging fortunes of British industry.

For nearly two years after the election he continued to make this his central theme, unable to shift himself intellectually into a frame of mind that would accommodate either the realities of the recession or the massive amounts of state aid drained away into concerns like British Steel, British Leyland and British Shipbuilders.

Only now, as he leaves the department, are there signs that the entrepreneurial dream may have basis in reality. Although it is far too early to draw firm conclusions, the recent response to his department's small firms bank loan guarantee scheme and the

Prior shows ability to walk the tightrope

Mr James Prior very nearly did not get the job from which he has now been reshuffled into the Northern Ireland Department. His instinctive dislike of the economic policies of Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph was evident long before the 1979 general election, and it was far from certain that the shadow employment secretary would secure the post for which he had groomed himself.

From the start, however, he found himself unable to stick rigidly to his principled opposition to Government intervention in industry. He rapidly came to terms with having to keep various forms of automatic and selective aid for the private sector in being and during the past year approved fresh aid worth £50m to bolster up companies' research and development programmes, to encourage a more British-oriented public purchasing policy, and to aid more opac purchases in the electronics field.

But his greatest problem remained the financial demands of the nationalised industries and, had he remained at the Industry Department, he would have been at the centre of current reviews of their relationships with the Government.

He will probably be happier away from the relentless problems of the Department of Industry, and the Government should benefit from the break with the past that the change signifies.

Howell will look at energy through Treasury eyes

MRS THATCHER'S decision to replace Mr David Howell with Mr Nigel Lawson as Energy Secretary is viewed in the fuel and power industries as a logical move—given the close ties between the Energy Department and the Treasury.

Mr Howell, who becomes Transport Secretary, had many a rough ride in his dealings with the Treasury over energy-related issues. While a sincere, thoughtful campaigner he never emerged as a formidable force in policy-making.

As Mr Roger Lyons, national chemicals officer of the Association of Scientific and Managerial Staffs, commented yesterday: "The Treasury has been barmy-minding the Energy Department."

He was angry about the Government's abandonment of the £2.7bn North Sea gas gathering scheme—a project keenly supported by the Energy Department but scuppered, largely by the Treasury, because insufficient private capital was forthcoming.

Mr Lawson, as the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, should be able to smooth some of the bumps on the ride between the two departments.

While he is unlikely to turn the Energy Department into a satellite of the Treasury, he will recognise the importance

of the energy industries—particularly North Sea oil producers—to the UK economy. Thus he may add a new dimension to the Department's consideration of North Sea oil depletion policies. The UK is now producing substantially more oil than it consumes. Mr Howell was keen to "flatten the hump" of potential surplus production capacity in order to sustain a high level of oil output well into the 1990s.

Mr Lawson may be persuaded that, for the sake of rising oil revenues, the country might be better off allowing a few years of net exports.

Similarly, the state energy undertakings administered by the Energy Department look large in the Treasury's eyes. The National Coal Board has to be supported from public funds. Others—like British Gas and British National Oil Corporation—are making large and growing profits.

British Gas—with whom Mr Howell was always sparring—has already been told to sell its Wyth Farm oil field and gas appliance business, BNOG was persuaded (with the aid of some judicious appointments) to co-operate in a scheme to introduce a majority private holding. Mr Lawson may pursue these objectives more vigorously.

He has also made himself unpopular with the TUC over his industrial training measures, in particular the pruning of the Industry Training Boards.

One thing that Mr Prior

has escaped, however, is any direct blame for Britain's high unemployment. For this he can presumably thank his scarcely disguised disagreement with the Government's economic policymakers.

Grudging Liberal activists prepare for alliance with former rivals

LIBERAL ACTIVISTS warned yesterday that a vote by the party assembly tomorrow in favour of an alliance with the SDP should not be interpreted as a sign that the Liberals are prepared to divide up all their hard-won spoils with the new party.

They are using the full battery of media weapons available at party conferences: Press conferences, news letters, badges and even songs. The activists, arriving in Llandudno for their annual conference have made it clear that, however enthusiastic Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, may be about his new-found allies, their own feelings about the Social Democrats are a bad thing as such.

Gas project abandonment 'puts 5,000 jobs at risk'

BY SUE CAMERON

UP TO 5,000 jobs and up to £500m worth of orders could now be at risk as a result of the Government's decision to abandon the UK's planned £2.7bn North Sea gas gathering project, a trade union leader warned yesterday.

Mr Roger Lyons, national chemicals officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, spoke at a news conference of his "outrage and shame" at the Government's decision. He is resigning from the Petrochemicals Sector Working Party—the industry's little Nanny—in protest.

Mr Lyons' resignation came on the eve of a key meeting of the gas gathering pipeline organising committee which was established last summer when the Government originally gave the go-ahead to the project in principle.

British Petroleum, British Gas and the US-based Mobil are all represented on the committee. They have spent £15m on initial design studies for the scheme. This morning they will meet to decide whether or not

tinged with a strong element of territorial jealousy.

Proudly producing figures to demonstrate the "grass roots revolution," which the Liberals have already achieved on their own, the Association of Liberal Councillors (ALC) insisted that they would not be a "push-over" for any political party.

As the ALC put it, "voting for the alliance tomorrow is the easy bit; the difficult bit is going to be making the alliance work."

At the beginning of what looks like the largest, and quite probably the most important, assembly in the party's history, virtually nobody was prepared to say yesterday that the alliance was a bad thing as such.

At a Liberal Press conference, Sir Michael Meadowcroft, chairman of the assembly com-



Mr Norman Atkins (left) leaves the Northern Ireland Office to become Lord Privy Seal. Mr James Prior (centre) takes his place, and Mr David Howell (right) becomes Transport Secretary.

Parkinson, free trade defender, to chair party

MR CECIL PARKINSON, 50, the Trade Minister who yesterday succeeded Lord Thorneycroft as chairman of the Conservative Party, brings with him 10 years' experience in Government and in Opposition as well as a hard-earned reputation as a defender of the Government's free-trade policies.

He was appointed Minister of Trade on May 7, 1979, following the election victory of the Thatcher Government and established himself quickly as an effective deputy to Mr John Nott, then the Secretary of State for Trade, and as a popular member of the Cabinet.

In this substantial measure was out of the way, Mr Prior wanted to let it settle down. But he was forced by the backbenchers and Mrs Thatcher to move again. His Department produced the green paper on trade union immunities, a document written in painfully neutral terms; it could be read as a case for doing nothing at all, or for sweeping legislative reform. Political circumstance, not the cold light of reason, was to decide what was done.

Mr Prior has been a popular figure at commercial gatherings. This has not always been an easy task as he has maintained a strong stance in defence of free trade and the need for foreign competition.

Mr Parkinson's move to industry post well timed

that in many cases they were necessary and hopefully temporary. He was responsible for BL and British Steel and played a large part in negotiations over Nissan's proposed investment in the UK.

Described once by Mr Michael Foot as the "most studiously semi-house-trained polecat," Mr Tebbitt was a member of the original "Gang of Four" that organised Mrs Thatcher's leadership campaign.

A former airline pilot and prominent member of the pilots' union, he is likely to take a tough line with the trade unions.

Mr Tebbitt agreed with all Sir Keith's dislike of state aid and intervention in industry, but was realistic enough to see

Elinor Goodman on attitudes at Llandudno to the SDP

MITTEN, warned that the tendency of the leadership to be "over-enthusiastic" about an alliance with the SDP could lead to strain and to divide the Liberals.

He acknowledged that, in certain circumstances, an alliance might be good for the country, but said he was still waiting to be convinced.

The target of 500 candidates, already set by the Liberals before the SDP came on the

Jenkin's move to industry post well timed

MR PATRICK JENKIN, the new Industry Secretary, is leaving the Social Services Department at the best of all possible times for himself.

He has carried out a structural reform of the NHS and fulfilled his party duty to encourage the private sector—but there have been no real confrontations yet with the unions.

The department has not yet been required to share the main strain of deepening public expenditure cuts—a situation which is likely to change soon as his junior ministers have already warned.

Mr Jenkin, MP for Redbridge, Wanstead and Woodford, is a 54-year-old lawyer noted for his introverted intellectual approach combined with an eye for intricate detail.

He was Financial Secretary to the Treasury in 1970-72 and was then promoted to Chief Secretary (1972-74). Even in those days he was privately worried about the money supply but did not say anything. For the last months of that Conservative administration, he was Energy Secretary and continued to shadow that brief from 1974 until 1976 when he switched to shadow health and social services, taking over that portfolio when the Conservatives were returned to power in 1979.

Mr Jenkin has some private experience of industry, having left the bar to hold a succession of jobs with Distillers from 1957 to 1970. He was elected to Parliament in 1964 and, within a year, had become an Opposition front-bench spokesman on Treasury, trade and economic matters.

One of Mr Jenkin's key achievements at the DRESS changes in the NHS

Lawson—enthusiast rather than a rigid doctrinaire

BRIGHT, industrious, pugnacious. Different people would put the emphasis on different adjectives, but together they summon up a recognisable picture of Nigel Lawson, the new Energy Secretary.

Starting off on the Financial Times, where he was features editor and a Lex writer, he was subsequently editor of the Spectator and entered Parliament in 1974.

Those who know him well stress that he is really an enthusiast rather than a doctrinaire or an ideologist. Although he may initially give the opposite impression, he is in fact a good listener.

As Financial Secretary to the Treasury, after the 1979 Election, his main achievement was to lead a wholesale transformation in Government debt operations, which he saw as the main weakness in monetary control. Apart from more technical improvements, gaudy bonds were made available to all, even the Bank of England.

He has no known view on energy policy. One would expect him to look for ways of mobilising private capital, but also to spring a few surprises in the way of ideas and even gimmicks. One would give a lot to be a fly on the ceiling at his first real encounter with Sir Dennis Rooke of the Gas Corporation.

How Ridley proved to be an excellent crisis manager

FOR THE past two years Mr Nicholas Ridley, the new Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has been in exile. After two decades on the back benches, expounding to anyone who would listen to his quirky right-wing views about how the economy had to be run, he found himself appointed by Mrs Thatcher in 1979 to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to run Britain's interests in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The coming weeks see Belize, Britain's remaining colony on the American continent, coming to independence with international guarantees and the continuing protection of 1,600 British troops.

The Falklands and Belize— together with larger questions of Caribbean development and the maelstrom of the Central American republics—have been Ridley's constant pre-occupations. He has attracted much admiration over the way he has handled them.

Woolwich may scrap differential rates

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

WOOLWICH EQUITABLE, one of the UK's largest building societies, may scrap differential mortgage rates. This is the system by which those with larger mortgages pay higher interest rates.

Mr Alan Cumming, Woolwich's chief manager and Building Societies Association chairman, said the Woolwich might introduce a standard mortgage rate for all its loans.

Mr Cumming said raising

the same amount of cash by single-rate Woolwich would currently need a standard rate of just under 13.2 per cent for all loans.

The Halifax, the largest UK society, last night supported the standard rate mortgage principle but said it would need to consider detailed proposals.

The pressure for standard rates arises because of:

• Greater competition from

banks, such as National Westminster and Williams and Glyn, charging a standard 13.5 per cent for all home loans, making them more attractive to larger borrowers.

• Mortgage-rate differentials which have penalised homebuyers in the South-East and other regions, where house prices are substantially higher and there is a greater need to borrow more.

Patrons were let to run up heavy debts, Mr Cumming said, jet to write cheques even when their bank balances were inadequate. They were let to play between patrons and staff.

Opponents of renewal seek to show the club contravened

Shell named as Dunlop tyre material partner

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

SHELL International Chemical, with a BL Metro at the Motor Industry Research Association's test grounds, has improved fuel consumption by 5.3 per cent, equivalent to a saving of 8p a gallon at current pump prices, because of their lower rolling resistance. The company estimates that 31 per cent of a car's power is used simply to overcome rolling resistance at a speed of 75 mph rising to 60 per cent in town use.

Tires using the material are expected to be more expensive than conventional ones, but Dunlop predicts that the extra cost will be marginal once they are produced in volume.

The Dunlop-Sheil development is the result of 10 years' research into the interaction of tyres and road surfaces. Dunlop believes that although its competitors will have access to the material, it has a healthy head-start in bringing them to production.

The compound is said to be suitable for tyres of all types irrespective of their profiles.

Court hears gaming licences renewal objections

BY RAY MAUGHAN

OPPOSITION TO renewal of gaming licences at the Playboy Club, Park Lane, and the Berkeley Club, in London's West End, was made yesterday by the Gaming Board and the Metropolitan Police.

The Government's decision amounted to a "squandering of the national heritage," he said. The UK was the one country in the world with oil and gas that was shutting down petrochemical plants.

Opponents of renewal seek to show the club contravened

the Act by letting new members gamble within 48 hours of joining and by granting membership to patrons at five London hotels for taking guests to the casino.

Patrons were let to run up heavy debts, Mr Kempster said, jet to write cheques even when their bank balances were inadequate. They were let to play between patrons and staff.

Opponents of renewal seek

Spending in shops rose sharply last month

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SPENDING in the shops rose sharply in August, according to provisional government figures published yesterday, although many retailers still remain that trade remains difficult.

The provisional retail sales figures from the Department of Trade show a rise in volume from the July index level of 109.2 to 111.5 in August (1976=100, seasonally adjusted). This brings the volume of trade in August back to the June level of 111.7.

However, the August figures are only provisional and the Department of Trade has this year repeatedly made substantial revisions in its provisional

estimates when fuller figures are known. In July, for example, the provisional volume of trade was given as 110.5, which was subsequently revised downwards to 109.7.

The main reason given by retailers for the apparent sales recovery in August was the sunny weather, which helped to boost sales of gardening equipment and summer fashions.

Mr Bob Lloyd-Jones, director-general of the Retail Consortium, said yesterday that the August figures "were more or less what we expected."

However, he pointed out that retailers were still under heavy pressure from rising costs

especially rates, and said that retail prices were generally rising slower than the rate of inflation.

Mr Tom McAuliffe, chairman of the Argos discount stores group, reported that his company's sales increased by about a fifth in value between July and August. He said that was mainly due to the publication of the new Argos catalogue.

But he added that this boost had done little to dispel his belief that sustained recovery would not happen for another 18 months.

Mr David Johnson, chief executive of the Kumbelows chain, said that sales of electrical goods had remained buoyant in the past few months. Video recorders in particular have continued to sell well even after the boost of the Royal Wedding.

consumer credit applications published by the United Association for the Protection of Trade, the largest credit information agency in the UK. These showed that demand for credit in August was only 2 per cent lower than in the same month last year.

Analysis of the Department of Trade's figures show that sales volume in the three months June to August were about the same as in the previous three months. However, during the first eight months of 1981 the average level of trade was about 2 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1980.

IBM plans £20m factory expansion at Havant

BY JASON CRISP

INTERNATIONAL Business Machines UK (IBM) is to make a substantial investment at its Havant plant in Hampshire. The company is expected to spend about £20m on equipment and buildings to make substrates on which microchips are mounted.

IBM employs 2,000 at Havant. Although it expects to require 300 for the manufacture of substrates, it does not anticipate increasing its overall level of employment. The staff will come from other product lines where the continuing miniaturisation of electronics is reducing the work involved in assembling and testing computers.

Elaine Williams writes: Please Telecommunications is to spend £2.5m on a new engineering centre at its Edge Lane complex in Liverpool.

Power cuts caused by heated cables

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

Last month's widespread power failure across Southern England and Wales was caused by overheated power lines sagging on to trees. The Central Electricity Generating Board has told Mr David Howell, the Energy Secretary.

This is the finding of a preliminary inquiry into the August 5 power cuts, the worst in Britain for nearly 20 years. The board is also drawing up a more detailed inquiry into the incident for its own internal use.

The preliminary report completed last week confirmed that two 400 kilovolt "supergrid" transmission lines had expanded because of the extremely hot weather

Calor Gas prices pact with dealers banned

BY OUR CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A PRICE-FIXING agreement between Calor Gas and a number of its dealers was yesterday banned by the Office of Fair Trading.

Details of the agreement were yesterday formally placed on the register of restrictive trade practices in London. This procedure officially declares the agreement null and void, and also enables legal action for compensation to be started in the civil courts.

The agreement relates to Calor Gas, Domestic Industrial Pressings, Infradex, Super Ser. and Valor Heating. Valor has denied that it was party to the agreement.

The agreement started on January 12 this year and

Lloyds chairman says devalued £ is no salvation

BY MARTIN DICKSON

THIS YEAR'S fall in the pound's value comes as welcome relief to many exporting companies. There was, however, no salvation for the British economy down this devaluation route, Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, said yesterday.

He was addressing an Institute of Bankers' seminar in Cambridge.

He said that this year the pound had lost almost half the good thing to be said about it. The 30-year decline in sterling from the end of the Second World War had proved there was no salvation for the UK economy down the devaluation route, Sir Jeremy said.

This fall had affected UK in

industry to compete on price rather than on quality and delivery, and in the end it increased our relative propensity to inflation."

The first flows of North Sea oil in 1977 had given the UK a chance to escape from a dangerous spiral of inflation and devaluation. While Britain remained the only major economy to be self-sufficient in oil this would tend to strengthen sterling.

Sir Jeremy said the argument was still heard that lack of investment was the main barrier to economic progress in Britain and that the banks were

primarily to blame. The banks had, however, responded well to demands for investment finance.

"Corporate borrowing depends much more on the demand for finance than on the supply, since in spite of the constraints of prudential and monetary policy the banks have always given priority to their industrial customers," he said.

"It is no part of a bank's function to persuade its corporate customers to increase their capital spending over and above the level which can be expected to yield an acceptable rate of return."

August was 'excellent' for holiday business

BY JAMES MCDONALD

AUGUST WAS an "excellent" month for the English tourist industry, and the levels for both domestic and overseas tourism may prove to be a record for the month. Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the English Tourist Board, said in London yesterday.

The industry, he said, had been benefiting from "post-Royal Wedding jays." A combination of sunshine, a more competitive currency, and the very favourable world-wide impact of television coverage of the wedding had contributed towards the industry's fortunes.

"London, for example, has had many hotels full. In a good number of cases, this is continuing," he said.

Much depended upon the future pricing policy of individual concerns in the industry for the maintenance of this recovery, he said. "I appeal to them to keep their prices at this now very competitive level."

• Tourism and holiday-making by Britons reached a record last year in spite of inflation, growing unemployment and the economic recession, according to the British Home Tourism Survey 1980, published yesterday by the English, Scottish and Wales Tourist Boards and the British Tourist Authority.

British tourists took a record 146m trips during the year, either in Britain or abroad. They spent 720m nights away from home. This represented an 11 per cent increase over 1979 in terms of trips and a 4 per cent increase in nights away.

Nights away spent in Britain last year, at £560m were up by 4 per cent compared with 1979, while nights abroad rose by 12 per cent.

The survey based on more than 26,000 interviews and carried out by NOP Market Research, shows that Britons are travelling down in their holidays.

They spent a record £4.55bn in Britain last year, 15 per cent more per night than in 1979 (£3.30 compared with £2.20), but this increase was below the average rate of inflation over the period.

British Home Tourism Survey 1980. £2.25. British Tourist Authority, 64 St James's Street, London SW1.

Tourism fears over Scottish air routes

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN OVER the possible abandonment by British Airways of some or all of its Scottish internal routes, if they cannot be restored to profitability, has been expressed by the Scottish Tourist Board.

Mr Alan Devereux, chairman of the STB, said that the routes which could be affected were national lifelines of vital importance to Scottish trade and tourism.

The current plans of British Airways for both international and domestic flights in Scotland do not seem to me to provide support for the view that British Airways could fulfil this role. Nor do they accord with the responsibilities of Britain's flagship airline.

• British Caledonian, the independent airline, is adding Douala, in the African state of Cameroon, to its network on November 1. Flights will be once-weekly each way, using Boeing 707 jets. Single fares will be £781 first-class and £350 economy class, with a 19-25 day excursion at £732 return.

Leisure facilities help bring investment, says Minister

BY ROBIN REEVES, WELSH CORRESPONDENT

THE PROVISION of tourist facilities and the attraction of new manufacturing investment go hand in hand, Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales, stressed in Cardiff yesterday.

Tourism Society's annual conference, said that the building

Mr Edwards, opening the leisure facilities did not just concern tourists and overseas visitors. "If you are to attract inward investment, one of the first things you need to construct is a golf course," he declared.

Noting that he had been attacked for this suggestion in the Daily Mirror recently, Mr Edwards declared: "It may be beyond the comprehension of the Daily Mirror, but not of companies thinking of setting up in Europe."

During his recent visits to the U.S. and Japan to discuss manufacturing investment, he had found that companies regarded facilities for sport and leisure entertainment as of prime

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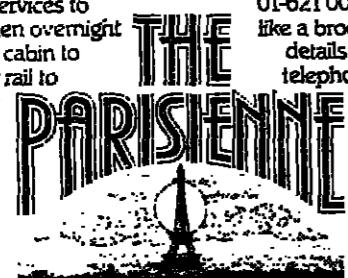
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Genetic engineering 'a potent force'

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

GENETIC engineering would produce far-reaching changes in every aspect of human life within the next two decades, the Pharmaceutical Society was told at its annual conference at Brighton yesterday.

Professor Arnold Beckett, in his presidential address to the society, said it was for the public to decide whether the changes would be for the better.

Genetic engineering would be used to develop pesticides and herbicides highly specific in their action.

It would be used to clean up pollution, such as crude oil split on water. "The capacity of

micro-organisms to metabolise crude petroleum can be developed with startling benefit to petroleum technology," he said.

Other organisms could be given an appetite for metals and thus used to enrich ores too lean to be of commercial interest today.

In medicine, developments would lie in the understanding and discovery of pharmaceuticals for the control of virus diseases, cancers, and autoimmune diseases, probably including diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Professor Beckett told an audience, which included Dr Gerald Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, that the pharmaceutical profession did not fear the inquiry into pharmacy which, it was being said, the Government wanted.

"The profession is absolutely confident that the result would point clearly to a positive future contribution by pharmacists to the health care service."

Its only concern would be that, "as in the past, the necessary government support might not be forthcoming."

But he urged the minister to take a broader view of primary health care, and to inquire into the future contribution of all the health professions. "If we do not have an integrated approach, we will surely fail in our duty to the patients we serve," he said.

Dr Vaughan, addressing the meeting, said that the number of chemists' shops was likely to increase this year, for the first time for a decade. "That is very good news indeed," he added.

But Dr Vaughan believed that drugs were often wasted, at a cost to the health service he estimated at £100m a year.

It is the second year that the department has run the "Micros in Schools" competition to increase awareness of advanced technology among schoolchildren.

This year the competition will be run by the British Computer Society on behalf of the Department and will be open to all secondary schools and sixth form colleges.

Entrants will be asked to submit an essay of 3,000-4,000 words, with appropriate diagrams, describing the use of a computer by schools for a specific project.

Last year the competition had more than 400 entrants from more than 8,000 secondary schools in the UK. Already about 50 per cent of secondary schools have some sort of computer facility.

In April the Prime Minister announced a £1m programme to install a microcomputer in every secondary school by 1983. The Industry Department matched £1m for pound expenditure by local education authorities on computers.

Since the campaign started, the department has received more than 1,200 applications from schools. Two UK companies, Research Machines and Acorn Computers, have been nominated as official suppliers.

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Directors appointed to RIT

By Tim Dickson

THREE DIRECTORS have been appointed to the board of RIT, the investment trust headed by Mr Jacob Rothschild.

The best known of the three is Mr David Montagu, formerly chairman of Samuel Montagu and Company and Orion Bank. He is expected to become executive chairman of Ailsa Investment Trust this year.

Mr Montagu is to devote most of his time to running the reorganised company but through RIT Investment Management (Ailsa's new management company, of which he will be chairman), other portfolio management ventures are expected to develop.

Mr Montagu, who left Merrill Lynch International last December, is also chairman of United British Securities Trust and Derby Trust.

The other two new directors at RIT are Mr Allard Jiskoot and Mr Charles Wilson. Mr Jiskoot was managing partner of Pierson, Heldring and Pierson in Amsterdam and is still a director of the company. He is also a director of Philips, Canadian Pacific, Heineken and Elsevier.

Mr Wilson is an executive director and former managing director of Dawny Day Holdings, which RIT took over at the beginning of last year.

THE DEPARTMENT of Industry is to give 100 micro-computers as prizes for the best suggested use of computers in schools. Mr Kenneth Baker, Information Technology Minister, said yesterday.

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Manchester enterprise zone opens with warning

BY RHYD DAVID, NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

THE GREATER Manchester Enterprise Zone - 900 acres in

controversy in Manchester because of the likely effect on parts of the Trafford Park estate which fall outside its scope.

According to some estimates, the zone is big enough to satisfy development needs in the vicinity for 10 years and so could almost fill the creation of new space nearby.

Supporters of the scheme argue, however, that the zone will help to bring back into use large tracts of vacant land.

Thus the Manchester Ship Canal - which has roughly 200 acres in the zone - is making available a number of sites of up to 20 acres, and Dunlop Heywood, the agent appointed by the canal company to market the land, reports a brisk level of inquiries.

One of the sites in the zone previously occupied by Manchester Dry Docks has been renamed Trafford Wharf Estate and has already attracted a number of new businesses. Dunlop Heywood claims.

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UK NEWS - LABOUR

Support for Healey in TGWU poll

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR

OVERWHELMING support for Mr Denis Healey to continue as deputy leader of the Labour Party has been recorded in one of the regions of the Left-led Transport and General Workers' Union.

TGWU branches in the traditionally conservative north of England have voted by about five-to-one for the status quo.

Converted into membership, the vote shows about 40,000 for Mr Healey, 7,000

for Mr John Silkin, the union's sponsored MP, and fewer than 5,000 for Mr Tony Benn. Branches covering some 50,000 of the region's 24,000 members sent in returns.

Other TGWU regions said to be swinging behind Mr Healey include southern, south-western and Yorkshire, while Wales is reportedly split between Mr Healey and Mr Silkin. Scotland and the big London region are likely

to back Mr Benn. The results of the polling, still continuing in some regions, will be considered by the TGWU general executive next week. The executive will then make a recommendation to the union's delegation to the party conference on Sunday week, only hours before the election is held.

The result of the Northern region vote is said to be a reflection of the view of Mr Alex Kitson, TGWU acting

general secretary and chairman of the Labour Party, who has consistently argued that there should be no contest for the deputy leadership this year.

TGWU leaders are inclined to support Mr John Silkin on the first ballot. The way the votes appear to be going among the membership could make it difficult for the union's delegation to support Mr Benn at any stage in the election.

Mersey dock mass meeting called

Financial Times Reporter

A MASS meeting of the 3,500 dockers on the Mersey has been called by the port shop stewards in the Liverpool Boxing Stadium tomorrow morning, to discuss the deadlocked negotiations on their annual pay claim, now five months behind schedule.

The decision was taken at a four-and-a-half-hour meeting of the 100 stewards in Liverpool yesterday which adjourned without deciding on any recommendation to put to the men.

A fortnight ago the stewards recommended rejection of the port employers' "final" pay and productivity deal and this was carried by a 2-1 majority.

Since then the employers have closed the door on any further negotiations. The stewards will reconvene in Transport House tomorrow morning before the mass meeting to try to decide on a recommendation.

Yesterday's meeting was at times heated, with the stewards almost equally divided, and some left the hall obviously still angry at the stringent changes in working practices on which the employers are insisting.

There is little argument about the pay award based on an £11 increase on the basic, proportionate rises on the twilight and night shifts, improved bonus and piece-work rates and a £200 lump sum backdated to the beginning of May.

The meetings tomorrow will coincide with the release of the half-year figures of the main employer, Mersey Docks and Harbour, which are expected to show another substantial loss.

Seamen to present claim today

BY BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

LEADERS OF 26,000 merchant seamen will this afternoon present their annual claim on pay and conditions against the background of what British shipping companies say is a continued deterioration in their financial position.

The claim will be fixed at a meeting of the executive of the National Union of Seamen this morning. The practice in recent years has been to put forward a substantial but unquantified claim for an increase in pay along with specific extra elements.

Last year a dispute on overtime rates resulted in the most

damaging period of industrial action since the 1966 seamen's strike. It ended with an arbitration award which increased the rates from time-and-a-quarter on all overtime to time-and-a-half, except for the first two hours of each weekday.

When the last stage of the award is implemented on January 1, seamen's earnings will have increased over the year by about 16 per cent, calculated on existing work patterns. The union side will say, however, that a fall in the amount of overtime reduces that figure.

After last year's dispute, some shipping companies would like to negotiate their own pay deals and avoid the talks in the National Maritime Board where they are represented by the General Council of British Shipping.

There is a possibility of individual deals being struck, but time is running short and it is believed that most companies will remain with the main negotiations.

Employers will emphasise the fact that the General Council of British Shipping's index of tramp trip freight rates has fallen to 172 in August from 234 at the beginning of the year (1976=100). This is the lowest level since May 1979.

UK NEWS

Mark Meredith on problems in the white goods sector

Hoover faces hard times

THE PROSPECTS for the white goods industry in Britain are looking decidedly grey. Hoover in particular faces difficult times for jobs and investment.

Competition is fierce and too many other companies in Europe are making Hoover's main products — washing machines and vacuum cleaners. Cheaper imports are hurting, fewer people in Britain are buying because of harder times and Hoover is losing money about £6m in the first half of the year.

National union officials and shop stewards met yesterday on the British Airways Trades Union Council to discuss the rescue package.

This meeting effectively deferred any statement from the union side until after Thursday's joint council.

Union representatives at yesterday's meeting are understood to have reaffirmed their opposition to compulsory redundancies but did not take their response much beyond this.

The corporation intends to make redundancies voluntary as far as possible.

Staff were yesterday told details of the severance scheme, which was said to be of limited duration and liable to be withdrawn at any time.

The scheme involves payment of a half year's pensionable pay — basic pay plus London weighting — for less than three years' service, one year's pay for three to 10 years, and an extra 10 per cent of pay for every year of service to a maximum of a year and a half's pay for 15 years' service and over.

Shop stewards representing engineering maintenance workers have already met to discuss their response and have decided to provide as much co-operation as possible with management.

They oppose to compulsory redundancies and have not yet discussed the demand for a pay freeze.

The manual unions were to submit a claim in the next few months. Some shop stewards have suggested they might seek a shorter working week rather than higher basic pay.

Hoover's options include shutting Cambuslang and shifting work to Perivale, shutting Perivale and shifting work to Cambuslang, or shutting both factories to open a custom-built plant elsewhere. Merthyr Tydfil is not included in these options for closure.

What is worrying the unions at the moment is a severe set of proposals from management to all staff as part of the package to restore profitability. These include:

- a 10 per cent wage cut from January for all staff including management;

- a reduction in manning levels;

- no wage increases until the company returns to profitability;

- longer wage agreements running for 30 months instead of the present 12;

- reducing the number of shop stewards conducting pay talks.

For staff who have been working on short time for a year, these demands are hard to take. "We've a gun to our heads," said Mr Eddie McCaughan, the works convenor at Cambuslang.

These retailers report that they are not counting on white goods to make profits this year.

Electrical appliance shops today count more on video sales or television rentals to improve their figures.

Hoover has also come under fire from department stores for not leaving sufficient margins for retailers to make profits.

The latest sales drive by Hoover will not help ease this criticism.

• Robin Reeves writes: Hoover's proposal for a 10 per cent wage reduction, as part of a radical "survival plan," was rejected by a shop stewards' meeting at the Merthyr Tydfil plant yesterday.

Pay levels there are reported to be running at 20 per cent below normal already, as a result of months of short-time working. The new retrenchment package was presented to union leaders last week.

fairly constant, with about 2m cleaners sold annually.

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electric Appliances has compiled figures for a potential anti-dumping suit against the eastern European products through the EEC. But little can be done to stem the import of washing machines from Italy.

Mr Richard Ford, marketing director of Currys and one of the big multiples selling Hoover products, said: "I don't buy the dumping line. I think Zanussi just analysed the market better."

Other retailers criticise Hoover for not producing a greater range of washing machines to suit different family budgets.

One of the problems British producers face is the highly developed distribution system inside the UK unparalleled anywhere else in Europe. This means a producer of washing machines or vacuum cleaners can market his goods throughout the country by contacting one or two of the big retailing outlets.

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Vauxhall workers reject 4% pay offer

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

TRANSPORT and General Workers' Union members at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside voted at a mass meeting yesterday to reject the company's pay offer, worth about 4 per cent.

Shop stewards from the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers have recommended that the offer should not be accepted and say consultations with their members at Elles-

mere Port are resulting in a rejection.

The decision of the 3,000 TGWU members, half the Ellesmere Port workforce, was relayed to management.

A national joint negotiating committee meeting for the whole of Vauxhall's manual labour force has been fixed for September 25.

The company has told the unions that it will enter negotiations to improve the offer if higher earnings are paid for entirely by higher productivity.

The company has already warned union negotiators for the 16,000 manual workers that funds for increases this year are limited. Vauxhall made a half-year loss of almost £60m.

The offer also involves a one-hour reduction in the working week to 39 hours.

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At Cambuslang, near Glasgow, 2,000 staff produce big upright vacuum cleaners, small cylinder vacuum cleaners, electric motors for washing machines, kettles and irons. At Perivale, West London, 1,500 staff produce upright vacuum cleaners, including the popular Hoover Junior.

A third plant, at Merthyr Tydfil in Wales, houses the company's laundry production, turning out washing machines and tumble dryers. It has a staff of 3,500.

The Wales factory has already

Shortages of meat 'in a week'

BY BRIAN GROOM

SHORTAGES of fresh meat will be seen in the shops within a week, according to leaders of 600 meat inspectors in England and Wales who yesterday began to work to rule.

Their union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo), claimed yesterday that slaughterhouse throughput in some areas had been reduced by up to 60 per cent. The weekly national red meat throughput of 22,000 tonnes of veal, lamb, mutton and beef could be down to 9,000 tonnes by the end of the week, it said.

The Nalgo members, who make up virtually all the country's meat inspectors, are

"rigidly" implementing the 1983 meat inspection regulations, the union said.

The inspectors want an improvement in pay grading to compensate for additional duties and for a deterioration in working conditions which they claim has resulted from increased mechanisation in slaughter-houses.

Mr Alan Dunn, deputy general manager of the Dews-Hurst chain of butchers' shops, said he believed some abattoirs were working "fairly normally" but others were harder hit.

He expected the work-to-rule to gain strength today and by the weekend there may be a shortfall in shop supplies of

about 20 per cent. This could grow next week and would force price rises up.

The employers' side of the national joint council for local authority white-collar staff and it was too early to assess the impact of the work-to-rule properly. It had seen no evidence to support the union's claim of a 60 per cent drop in throughput.

No further negotiations have been arranged, but the employers feel that procedures are not yet exhausted. They have offered a maximum of £7,137 a year, compared with the £5,652-£5,333 which the inspectors now earn. The union is seeking a range of £7,371-£7,575.

The Financial Times proposes to publish a Survey on Northern Ireland in its issue of November 9 1981. The provisional editorial synopsis is set out below.

INTRODUCTION Northern Ireland has struggled for years to improve its economic position. Although it has had to contend with the rundown of traditional industries such as shipbuilding and textiles it has managed to attract a large amount of new industries, particularly in the vehicle field, and these have helped to bolster the economy. But the search for a political solution continues to be dogged by setbacks and is proving to be difficult to bring about.

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JOE LEMMENS, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SENTRY INSURANCE.

TECHNOLOGY

Intel takes a 10% change of direction to silicon services

LOUISE KEHOE describes the reasons for Intel's decision to turn as much as 10 per cent of its production capacity over to a new venture into silicon foundry services.

INTEL, the fourth biggest U.S. manufacturer of integrated circuits, with annual sales approaching \$800m is to turn as much as 10 per cent of its production capacity over to a new venture into "silicon foundry" services. The silicon foundry will provide manufacturing services to customers who design their own integrated circuits.

Intel expects the new operation to have sales of \$100m a year within a couple of years. The U.S. market for silicon foundry services is already worth \$135m and will grow to \$680m by 1985. The rapid expansion of the silicon foundry market reflects the growing needs of large computer and telecommunications equipment manufacturers who want to build systems that offer exclusive features.

To do this they need non-standard electronic devices—ones that cannot be purchased or copied by their competitors. Some of the largest systems manufacturers have acquired their own chip manufacturing

facilities to make these parts, but with the cost of setting up a semi-conductor manufacturing plant approaching \$100m, silicon foundries offer an attractive alternative.

Intel's move into the silicon foundry business to make "custom" chips marks a dramatic departure from the company's previous policy of sticking almost exclusively to high profit, innovative device products. With that business now under increasing threat from Japanese competitors, Intel is switching towards a market in which close customer supplier relationships are crucial, one which is largely immune to foreign competition.

Many of Intel's U.S. competitors including Motorola and National Semiconductor have already opened their doors to silicon foundry business, although less publicly. Intel's announcement of its new operation will however serve to endorse the new business, and could even expand the market, industry experts say.

Some observers suggest that

the downturn in the U.S. economy, which has its effect upon the semiconductor market, has prompted semi-conductor makers to accept foundry business as a means of keeping production lines busy. Many of the companies that are presently "filling in" with foundry business will turn it away when the economy turns up, analysts predict.

Intel, however, claims that this is not their strategy. "We have wanted to do this for a long time," said Robert Noyce, company vice-chairman. "But the industry was in a capacity investment. Another factor that has been instrumental in changing the attitude towards who designs the circuits is a new design methodology for new large-scale integrated circuits

which have evolved in the U.S. This approach allows systems designers to draw up integrated circuit layouts without having too much concern for the details of the circuits.

Much of the detail of VLSI design is handled by computer aided design tools. As part of its silicon foundry service, Intel will allow customers access to the inhouse developed computer programmes that its own designers use to build new chips, microprocessors and memories.

Intel is able to offer customers some of the most advanced semiconductor processes available today, and in multiple locations so that the customer is always assured of supply.

Mitsubishi temperature technique

A TECHNIQUE for the measurement of temperature in the proximity of high electric power fields (which may affect the accuracy of electrically-based measurements) has been developed by Mitsubishi Corporation using fibre optics and temperature sensitive semiconductors.

One of the sensors developed makes use of a gallium arsenide

window only 150 microns thick sandwiched between the two ends of an input and an output optical fibre.

The input fibre is connected to a dual wavelength source where one of the wavelengths is such that it passes through the window without attenuation.

The other generated wavelength however, is attenuated by the semiconductor according to

the temperature. This is because the absorption band, almost coincident with the second wavelength, shifts with temperature, changing the amount of light allowed through.

More from Don Iguchi or Yoshiro Nakamura at the project co-ordination department, Mitsubishi Corporation, 6-3 Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.



DR. ROBERT NOYCE, Intel Vice-Chairman: We are now reserving capacity for silicon foundry and will continue to do so.

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Stonebow House, York YO1 2NP

Kalle facsimile digital machine

ALTHOUGH THE latest high speed "Group 3" digital facsimile machine from Kalle Infotec will retail for £3,750—perhaps twice as much as the slower Group 2 machines—the company claims that the difference will be paid for by reduced line charges, even if only half a dozen A4 documents a day are sent to Europe, let alone the U.S.

The company points out that telephone-line charges are trending upwards while microprocessor-based hardware is getting cheaper, making deployment of the faster, more expensive machines an increasingly viable proposition.

Kalle Infotec, part of the Hoechst chemicals giant, is already in a good market position in the U.K. with 1,250 earlier machines installed. It markets systems made by Ricoh in Japan; these are also sold by Rapicom in the U.S. and to date 25,000 digital units have been placed worldwide.

The importance of the latest model, the 6003, is that it transmits to the recently laid down CCITT Group 3 standards for facsimile, now mandatory.

Upgrade

Applications are most likely to arise in international companies with significant traffic to Europe, Africa, the U.S. and similarly remote places particularly where document graphics content prevents the use of telex or other character methods.

Working at 4,800 bytes/sec over a standard phone line, Group 3 digital machines will typically transmit an A4 page in one minute or less.

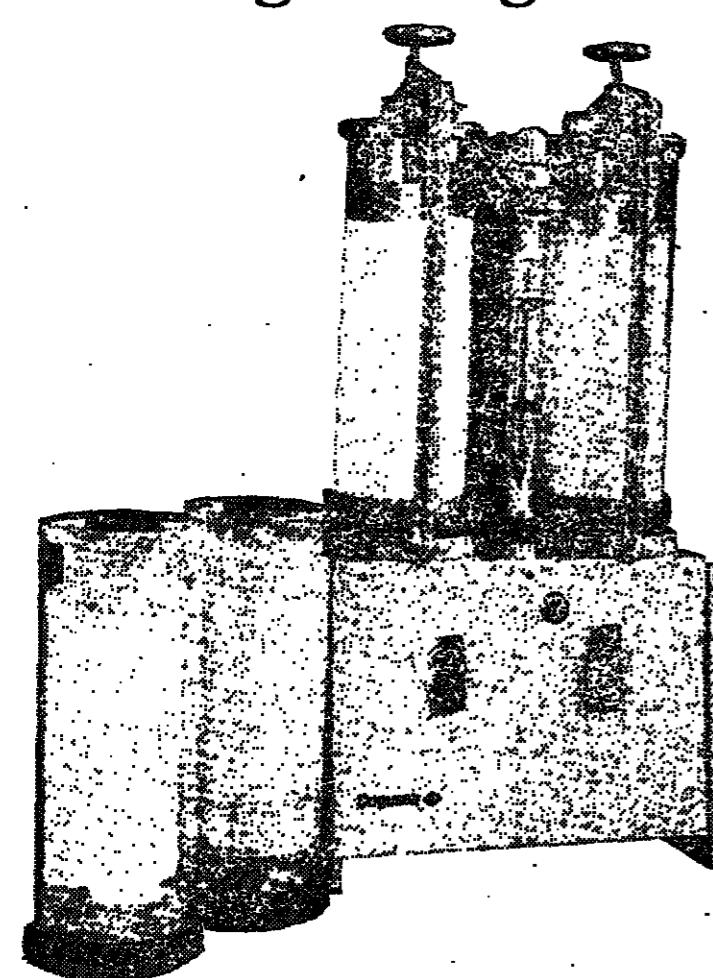
So far, the facsimile market has been somewhat slow to get off the ground in the U.K. in comparison with the U.S. and Japan. However, the recent setting of standards means that increasingly, a machine in company A will be able to transmit to a machine in company B—which is not often the case at present.

Those who already possess a Kalle Infotec model 6000, will be able to upgrade their machines to Group 3 CCITT working with the purchase and retrofit of a £2,400 package.

GEOFFREY CHARLISH

POINTERS

Exchanger for gold recovery



DEGUSSA of Frankfurt has introduced this two column apparatus, designated "Metallsolex Kemhi" to help small- and medium-sized precious metal electroplating shops to recover gold and palladium by the use of exchanger resins directly from the rinsing water. Degussa says that if the resins in the two columns are replaced by plate, multiple tube or activated charcoal filters it is also possible to carry out filtering with the unit. Degussa is Postfach 26 44, D 6000 Frankfurt 1. Tel. (06 11) 218 60 or telex: 41 222-0 d g d.

Norway's latest

ONE of three new Norwegian coastguard vessels was at home on the Thames last week. The Nordkapp was in West London for the fitting of its Westland Sea Lynx helicopter, the skipper and 50 crew took the opportunity to pipe aboard contractors, Press and the Royal Navy to look at Norway's latest hit of technology.

This good looking ship with a displacement of 3,200 tons, a patrol speed of 15 knots and a cruising range of 7,500 miles carries one 57 mm Bofors gun, 20 mm anti-aircraft guns and a

rack for six depth charges.

Norway's Navy Material Command says that despite the armament it is not a warship, but could be used as such in the event of an emergency.

Basically, it has been designed to cover an area of about a million square kilometres from the North Sea to the Barents Sea to enforce Norwegian authority on fishery and environmental protection and rescue services.

Details about the builders and suppliers are available from the Export Council of Norway, 20, Pall Mall, London, 01-839 6261.

Improved reception

WHEN RADIO London on VHF moves from Wrotham, Kent, to Crystal Palace in London the new aerial installation will improve reception of the signals in cars.

The problem has been that the electromagnetic polarisation of the transmissions was chosen to be horizontal some years ago, before it became customary to include VHF bands on car radios. Thus, all VHF aerials on rooftops have their elements lying in the horizontal plane.

Unfortunately, most car aerials are vertical in order to obtain the height for adequate signal pick up, thus placing them at right angles to the polarisation and defeating the object. Curved aerials are something of a compromise.

This good looking ship with a displacement of 3,200 tons, a patrol speed of 15 knots and a cruising range of 7,500 miles carries one 57 mm Bofors gun, 20 mm anti-aircraft guns and a

ment of a weld neck flange has an advantage in that only a short length of pipework, adjacent to the weld, is subjected to the test pressure (max 690 bar). More from Chalwyn 0202 741200.

Twin seal hydroplug

CHALWYN Equipment of Poole, Dorset (0202 741200) says that its newly developed twin seal hydroplug should interest companies involved in the maintenance of pipework in chemical and petroleum refineries installations.

The company claims that with the incorporation of two seals the unit, used for hydrostatic testing of welds after replacement

Very little power is required to energise the unit, which is capable of displaying, for example, a full Prestel page together with diagrams and graphics.

STL flat display unit

A FLAT display unit only 36 mm square and a few millimetres thick having 1,600 picture elements has been developed by Standard Telecommunications Laboratories (STL) of Harlow, the UK Research centre of I.T.T.

The company believes that the device will, when developed to the production stage, find application in many kinds of portable equipment and in aircraft/vehicle instrumentation

systems.

STL claims: "It opens the way to complex miniature displays with contrast and legibility approaching that of print on paper."

provided.

Known as the ALSI, the unit directly replaces and is easily installed as a conventional wall switch, fitting a standard dual switch. Up to 2 kW of fluorescent lighting can be switched. It is intended for institutional, rather than domestic, use, where reasonable sound levels could be expected in most rooms.

Sensor light switch to save energy

A SENSOR controlled light switch which can hear if a room is occupied and see if the daylight has dropped below a certain level, switching the room lighting on and off as necessary, has been introduced by Allen-Martin Electronics of Wolverhampton (0902 58942).

Cheshire County Council, first users of the device, has recorded a 15 per cent energy saving.

When daylight levels are low only sound in the room will trigger the switch, via a microphone that discriminates against spurious external noises. If no sounds are heard during a set period (which is adjustable), the lights go off. If daylight is adequate (the sensor level is adjustable) then the audio switch is inhibited and the lights cannot come on. Overriding manual control is

The widest way to the USA.



When you fly British Airways Super Club to the States, you'll be reclining, only six abreast, in a seat that has the distinction of being the widest airline seat in the world.

It has been ergonomically designed by computer to give you as much room and relaxation as possible.

And only British Airways has it.

Next to you, instead of another passenger, you'll find a handy table for your drinks, books and papers.

And your legs will discover that we've made more room for them, too.

As you revel in all this new-found space and comfort, you'll also be able to enjoy free drinks and in-flight entertainment, and a choice of main courses at meal times.

In fact, you'll find Super Club offers you just about everything you'd expect from first class on other airlines—at a price that's far less than you'd expect.

THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

Britain: the new U.S. tax haven

BY CARLA RAPORT

AN AMERICAN love affair with Britain is about to start all over again, no thanks this time to the Royal family, the Rolling Stones or the strengthens dollar. Instead it is due to President Reagan's recently approved tax code which dispenses with the punishing tax system now in effect in America's working abroad. In its place are a few rules which will establish Britain as a tax haven for American expatriates.

Under the new system, Americans working abroad will be able to exclude \$75,000 of their income next year from U.S. taxes and by 1986, the figure will reach \$200,000. This means that more than 90 per cent of Americans living abroad will pay nothing in home next year and will only be liable to the tax man in their host country.

Compared with European neighbours, Britain is a terrific host. According to UK tax law, foreigners working for foreign-based companies need only pay tax on 50 per cent of their income.

This tax holiday hasn't meant much to Americans for the past five years. Starting in 1976, American expatriates were required to pay the full U.S. tax burden, though various, complex, decisions were allowed, alongside credits for foreign tax relief, however, Americans paid just as much tax and, furthermore, than they would have had back home. Companies usually provided tax equalisation plans, but this meant the employer was stuck paying taxes on the taxes paid for each employee.

"As of this new year, there will clearly be no better place than the UK for Americans to set up," says Saul Epstein, who is in charge of U.S. tax in the UK for Arthur Young McClelland-Moore, the large firm of accountants. So far, though, we haven't been reports of large numbers of Americans moving up outside the British exodus in the U.S. The tax changes are a result

of ardent lobbying by American companies with interests abroad. These groups claimed the tough tax laws discouraged the transfer of Americans abroad and thus hurt America's export potential. They also complained that the punishing tax liability made U.S. bids for contracts non-competitive, especially in the Middle East.

The new laws will save American companies millions of dollars. A Touche Ross executive in New York estimated that the practice of "grossing up" (paying various allowances for an employee and the income tax burden) could mean spending up to \$250,000 to maintain a \$60,000-a-year employee overseas.

According to Chase Econometrics, the economic forecasting subsidiary of Chase Manhattan Bank, the number of highly-skilled expatriate Americans in professions like con-

struction, architecture and design had declined by 50 per cent since 1978. Overall, the General Accounting Office in Washington reckoned that the American workforce abroad had shrunk by 21 per cent by 1981, compared with 1978.

While the new laws should propel more Americans overseas, the U.S. Treasury estimates that its potential loss in revenue will be \$900m next year and \$700m by 1986 when the allowed excluded income will reach \$95,000.

As the U.S. abandons its role as an overseas tax collector, UK accountants are now expecting a renewed interest in UK tax avoidance by American expatriates. "The energy expended on paying the least amount of tax to Washington will now be applied to keeping the UK tax bill low," explained one UK accountant.

A fairly common avoidance method before U.S. taxes went up in 1976 was the split contract. Under this system, American companies dished out contracts which stated that part of the employee's time be spent in other countries, thus freeing him from UK taxes during those periods. In some cases, the on-shore income was paid into a separate account for the employee.

"There's nothing magical or naughty about it," says Maurice Thomasset, a partner in the UK of accountants Touche Ross. Split contracts will be one way to reduce UK tax liability for Americans, he says.

While it is possible that the Inland Revenue may try to tighten up the tax laws for expatriates, at the moment there is no way we can oppose a form of contract between employees and employers, according to a Revenue official.

The UK tax holiday only last for nine years, however. After that, expatriates are liable for the full blunt of the UK tax laws. But nine years is surely long enough for any romance to flourish.

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The improved circumstances

of one lucky man

PAUL LUBENS works for the UK office of American White Limited and earns \$10,000. This year, the U.S. Government will allow him a home deduction of \$7,000 and a package of other deductions including school fees for Paul Jr and a trip home for the family, which will cost \$15,000. His U.S. taxable income is therefore \$75,000. His UK tax bill, based on his \$10,000 salary, is about \$18,000. If, remember, of that paid to his British colleague who is next to him and earns the same money, Lubens is now shopping for a new car.

Also eligible for UK tax relief on a mortgage if he decides to buy a house. The UK tax is credited towards his U.S. tax bill. Lubens pays an accountant anywhere between \$500 and \$1,000 to figure out how much he owes Washington and file his American tax forms. The accountant informs him that he still owes \$11,398 for a total tax bill of \$29,398.

Next year, Lubens will still be earning \$1,000 but he has spurned a better offer from his UK-based competitor and here's why. His new

housing allowance is now \$13,841. He gets no deductions, but \$75,000 of his income is now excluded from tax. The amount remaining, \$11,058, will be taxed in the lowest tax bracket, as will any investment income that might arise in future years. For 1982, Lubens' total U.S. tax bill is \$1,022. Assuming UK taxes don't go up, his UK tax bite will again be about \$18,000 for a total tax bill of \$19,022 or a saving of about \$10,000.

Mr and Mrs Lubens are now shopping for a new car.

Mr Lubens is now shopping for a new car.

What a frustrated banker did with an offer he couldn't refuse

A millionaire gave Andrew Deacon a fortune to become an industrialist. Arnold Kransdorff reports

Where Americans will pay less taxes*...

Bahamas

Bahrain

Caribbean Islands

BRITAIN

Hong Kong

Kuwait

Oman

Saudi Arabia

Venezuela

... and where they will pay more

Austria

Belgium

Canada

France

Finland

Italy

Japan

Mexico

Norway

Singapore

Sweden

Switzerland

West Germany

*Based on top U.S. tax rate of 50 per cent.

WHEN, at the age of 18, Andrew Deacon joined Price Waterhouse's Birmingham office as an articled clerk, he never dreamt that one day he would be offered £780,000 to start his own business.

He had always wanted to be his own boss but, in common with many other ambitious youngsters with limited resources, he could not see how he was going to break out of the employee mould.

The only thing he could do, he reasoned, was to get as much experience as possible and leave the rest to fate. Today, 15 years later, he heads a large group making machinery for the plastics industry.

Back in Birmingham, he qualified as a chartered accountant after five years and transferred to Price Waterhouse's London office. One year later—in 1972 and at the age of 24—he joined the corporate advisory division of County Bank, the merchant banking subsidiary of National Westminster.

It was there that, a year later, he met his future benefactor, an ambitious businessman named Phil Harris, the millionaire head of what is now the Harris Queensway chain of carpet and furniture retail outlets. In those days Harris was just selling carpets albeit as one of the largest retailers in the UK, and his links with County Bank were tenuous and hesitant.

Deacon recalls: "At that moment my life changed. Phil is an incredible man. I said to him I didn't know why he was doing it, but I took the opportunity, of course. There was nothing in writing when I left County Bank but we soon put a deal together."

To Deacon, a man with no direct industrial experience, the offer was a godsend—and beyond anything he could ever have hoped for, especially from a tough businessman.

Amazingly, Harris let him have £780,000 in the form of an unsecured interest-free loan. In addition he put up £75,000 equity in a new company—equal to an amount Deacon was able to raise through borrowings and a second mortgage—and persuaded Sykes to put up another £50,000 through Bamford Hall, a company he controls.

This gave Deacon and Harris almost 38 per cent each and Sykes slightly more than 24 per cent in the new company—called Deacon Industrial Group.

All the while Deacon had been casting around for potential ideas—and almost immediately stumbled across a plastics machinery business.

"I was looking for an engineering company that was encouraging," says Deacon. "A Luton-based company called Betol. Although I loved the people I worked with I wasn't sure I could spend the rest of my life in the City. As an employee I

had no self-determination and fundamentally I wanted to make my own mark.

"I knew I wasn't a very good employee but that I made quite a good leader. So I started to look for a way out—but what do you do? I wasn't exactly unsuccessful. By then I was a director of County Bank—one of the youngest in the City—with a bloody good salary, membership of BUPA, a car and a pension. But all this wasn't enough for me and I was quite unhappy."

Then, out of the blue, his chance came, via a telephone call from Hugh Sykes, Harris's non-executive deputy chairman, who said: "Phil hears that you want to do something on your own. He would be interested in being part of it."

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Why Reagan should raise taxes

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

AS PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan casts about with growing urgency for cuts in federal spending to balance his budget in a way which will allay Wall Street's dark fears, there is at least one option which he appears to have dismissed but would be worth reconsidering: raising taxes.

That may seem an odd thing to suggest only weeks after he signed into law the huge tax cuts for which he campaigned so vigorously. But those were taxes on income. What he might consider are ways of taxing consumption.

Burden

This is a distasteful political option, of course, and it would probably take another 100 point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average before he would even contemplate it. But it would not be wholly inconsistent with the kind of free market approach that lies at the basis of his philosophy. Transferring the burden of taxation from income to consumption increases, in theory at any rate, the individual's ability to decide how he wants to spend the money he has earned. Mrs Thatcher felt quite comfortable cutting income tax and raising VAT even in the first flush of her administration, and heaven knows where her budget would be now if VAT was not at 15 per cent.

But surprisingly little of this option is heard in the U.S., a country that has virtually no tradition of federal taxation on consumption, and where VAT is still treated as an academic notion.

Suggested

One of the few people who has advocated it in public is Mr Milton Hudson, a senior economist at Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, the large New York bank. In testimony to the House Budget Committee a few days ago, he suggested that the Administration consider introducing a low-rate consumption tax which exempted food and other essentials so that it was not regressive. Such a tax, he said, "could be a powerful revenue-raiser, and would be

entirely consistent, it seems to me, with the rationale underlying this year's reshaping of tax statutes."

Mr Hudson was realistic enough to admit that his suggestion is not exactly going to make people dance for joy in the streets, particularly since one tax looks like any other to the general public, whatever its purpose. "But," he goes on, "given the size of the budget problem that exists, we may not be able to avoid actions to enlarge Treasury receipts."

U.S. sales taxes have traditionally been levied at a state or municipal level and they currently range anywhere between zero and 10 per cent. But if Mr Reagan is to consider this option, he would have to move fast.

It is already clear that his cutbacks in Federal subsidies to local authorities will shortly force a lot of them to raise sales taxes to balance their own budgets. This has already happened in New York where the sales tax is being raised by 1 per cent to 8½ per cent to help the so-called Compact Disc—actually the Grundig stand. It is unquestionably superb, and with my query was, who wants to spend the money he has earned. Mrs Thatcher felt quite comfortable cutting income tax and raising VAT even in the first flush of her administration, and heaven knows where her budget would be now if VAT was not at 15 per cent.

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Demand

A tax on consumption might also take the form of elimination of the right enjoyed by the American taxpayer to deduct interest on consumer loans from taxable income, a move that would make it more expensive to buy on credit. The justification for this would be even stronger than a sales tax since it would tackle a number of problems at once.

It would increase the real rate of interest, putting a check on demand which is partly responsible for the present high rate of inflation. It might also sharpen the edge of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy by improving the effectiveness of high interest rates—which so far seem to have had little or no effect on consumer borrowing.

Internationally it would be popular since it would align U.S. practice more closely with that of its major commercial partners who have argued that this tax concession helps keep U.S. interest rates high.

The Orwellian future—on television

IN ONE important respect George Orwell was wrong about 1984. There will not be one big brother watching the population, but a mass audience of television viewers increasingly in control of big brother (the programme controller).

Some of mass audience were sweating it out in Berlin in the last week, looking at the products of 322 exhibitors at the International Funkausstellung (the English now known as the Audio and Video Fair).

Exhibitions are rarely the easiest of places for gleaning what's new, but they do give the expert observers a chance to gather some perspective on trends. For me, the emerging image is clear: television is on the threshold of a metamorphosis; not only because of the explosion in domestic hi-fi over 20 years ago and it begins to look like history repeating itself.

Hi-fi is going to be very important in the video age because so much of the newly-created programming for video will be aimed at music lovers (at both ends of the spectrum). JVC believes in this enough to have made its VHD video disc player also double as a really high fidelity audio disc system (known as AHD), although the competing Philips Laser Vision system has such good stereo sound on its video discs some may wonder why a separate system is needed at all.

Yet Philips has developed a separate hi-fi audio player based on the same optical-laser technology as its LaserVision video disc. That has been known about for a long time (and demonstrated) but last week was my own first sampling of the so-called Compact Disc—actually the Grundig stand. It is unquestionably superb, and with my query was, who wants to spend the money he has earned. Mrs Thatcher felt quite comfortable cutting income tax and raising VAT even in the first flush of her administration, and heaven knows where her budget would be now if VAT was not at 15 per cent.

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Racing

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

Flutter or Detroit on October 4.

However, no announcement was forthcoming. It is easy to understand why. Not only is Beldale Flutter "better than ever," according to his astute handler, Michael Jarvis, but Detroit did all that was asked of her in landing the Prix de l'Arc. The justification for this would be even stronger than a sales tax since it would tackle a number of problems at once.

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the TV industry now that colour has almost run its course.

Philips also exemplified a popular trend towards the modular TV set, where hi-fi amplifier, audio inputs, tuners, video cassette recorder and loudspeakers are all separate units but designed to fit into single cabinets. This same modular approach marked the beginning of the explosion in domestic hi-fi over 20 years ago and it begins to look like history repeating itself.

Such clean background noise that the Grundig demonstrators found it difficult to know if the disc had started to play (until the sudden loud crash of an opening chord, in stereo, frightened all out of their uncertainty).

Grundig, Sony and others,

will be marketing the system within the next 18 months. It uses digital recording techniques; a one-hour disc is small enough to span only two and a half column widths of this

digital stereo in their car?

The two answers underline how marketing considerations are now taking precedence over technology. Engineers can still perform miracles, but two marketing people still cannot agree as to what exactly the public will buy.

For JVC, the engineers have come up with a technical breakthrough about which the marketing men at Thorn EMI and everyone else in the JVC camp must be jubilant. On their

FILM AND VIDEO

BY JOHN CHITTOCK

article; and like the video disc it is insensitive to handling and wear.

JVC's audio disc is larger, like its 10-inch video disc, but unlike the Philips system one player is common to video and audio discs. Curiously, however, at a Berlin press demonstration of VHD, JVC failed to mention AHD. Why, I had asked Grundig, both with a compact disc for audio when LaserVision is so excellent on hi-fi anyway? Because, Grundig said, everyone will find the smaller discs so convenient for audio—they will even go in the glove compartment of a car. But JVC's return to my query was, who wants

video disc system shown at Berlin, JVC played NTSC discs on PAL and SECAM machines and vice versa; the one can now serve players and TV sets operating on any of the three normally incompatible technical standards.

Theoretically this means that video disc production runs could be centred in one country to serve all three territories (which are, approximately, North America and the Far East for NTSC, PAL for Western Europe, and SECAM for French and Eastern European countries). The demonstration was convincing, with no loss of quality, although there is some

minor problem over picture area when NTSC is played on PAL (a problem JVC claims will be overcome for domestic use).

It is difficult to get away from video even after yesterday's major survey on the subject in the Financial Times. Sony's West German company reported that sales of its Betamax video tape recorder now account for 5 per cent of turnover. But Germany is about the only home in which Philips and Grundig are

marketing; Grundig's latest has stereo sound and will later incorporate automatic track switching and reversing at the end of the cassette—so that the 2 x 4 flip-over cassette will no longer have to be manually flipped over to provide the second four hours.

Portable video is another emerging trend at Berlin. Not just the ultimate development of the video camera with built-in micro-cassette recorder (Sony, Hitachi, Matsushita and Sanyo all have non-compatible prototypes); but in the short term, lightweight video recorders carried on a shoulder strap, connected by cable to a lightweight colour video camera.

There are various systems of this type about to be marketed. One philosophy is to make them compatible with the home videocassette recorder by using those with hi-fidelity TV more equal (and those with hi-fidelity VHS more equal than others).

Eddery delays mount decision

NO JOCKEY can be looking forward to next month's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe with quite the same relish or trepidation as Pat Eddery.

At Longchamps on Sunday, Vincent O'Brien's stable jockey had been expected to make a decision after the Prix de l'Arc on whether he would ride Beldale

in the U.S. as a probable Arc runner—for which he has been introduced in the betting at Ladbrokes's top-priced at 20-1. I suspect that the colt will, after further consideration, be aimed at the Champion Stakes instead.

If that does not prove to be the case, and Storm Bird jockeys a trip likely to be beyond his optimum at Longchamps, Eddery will undoubtedly be held to his Cashel contract. That would leave the way clear for Steve Cauthen to partner Detroit.

With Lester Piggott and Yves St-Martin already spoken for,

the search is surely on for a top jockey to take the plumb ride on Beldale Flutter who is down as short as 4-1 in one list.

the search is surely on for a top jockey to take the plumb ride on Beldale Flutter who is down as short as 4-1 in one list.

FARMOUTH
3.15—Sandwaker**
3.45—Unbiased
4.45—Caribbean Blue

LINGFIELD
2.30—Eight Roses
3.00—Colonial Line
3.30—Samanta Mu**
4.00—Bell Hyatt

REDCAR
3.00—Pitter Pat
5.00—Go Metro*

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London galleries

Autumn delights

by WILLIAM PACKER

For the poor art critic it is September that really is the quietest month, mixing the memory of all those well-earned, well, all right, much-needed days of idleness with not much the desire for the return to the daily round, more dutiful acceptance of the inevitable. And suddenly there it all is in a rush, 20 or more shows opening last week in London alone, almost as many to follow this week, some of the first importance and a most encouragingly high proportion of the other world-wide to say the least. The week is just not long enough to see all of even the best of them.

But what can one do but plunge in? Once in the water is lovely. The good things are to be found as much in the centre of London as anywhere, but it happens that lately I have also been venturing somewhat further afield, into the nearer suburbs, and so for the moment such masters as Leslie Waddington's further colonisation of Cork Street, with an exhibition of recent paintings by Dubuffet to inaugurate his newest gallery (until October 3), or Stephen Buckley's work just down the road at Kasmin, or Jill and Bruce Lacey's extra-

ordinary installation cum performance at ACME (only until September 19 and, sad to say, the gallery's swan song), must all wait upon another chance.

Even the show of modern British sculpture at Whitechapel, perhaps the most important current show of 20th century work, Picasso apart, must wait a while for its proper notice, for it is just part one of a double header, and I suspect that the insights it affords, and the questions it raises, must wait upon part two for their resolution. Which means that a trip to Whitechapel in the meantime is absolutely necessary for those of us with any interest in modern British Art. British Sculpture in the 20th Century is an extraordinarily ambitious undertaking, for the subject is as full of complexity as it is of surprises, at once obscure, idiosyncratic and of the highest international class.

At the end of it all the organisers will have shown us examples of the work of more than 120 artists, and whether or not they have made sense of them remains to be seen.

Part one, I must say, is the happiest of auguries, sensibly ordered and full of beautiful

and remarkable things. We are taken easily from late Victorian monuments and languid fin de siècle classicism, through art nouveau and the influence of Rodin, quickly into the Primitivism of the Archaic and the Modern, and so into the Vortex and on to Abstraction and Surrealism and the Figuration of the forties, step by step.

There are many heroes: Henry Moore we know about, but how good he looks set among his peers; and Barbara Hepworth, too, whose earlier work stands as fresh and radical as anything she, or any of her contemporaries for that matter, ever did. They are, by no means alone; there are also Epstein, clearly a central figure, forceful and adventurous, and Eric Gill, and Henry Gaudier-Brzeska who was perhaps the most gifted of them all and certainly one of the greatest losses to art of World War One. Frank Dobson comes from the light, and Eric Kennington from the dark, and Eric Sorensen from the obscure figures like Maurice Lambert, and unexpected ones like Gertrude Heron, with her aluminium

ends. The Penwith Peninsula beyond Penzance and St Ives have notably been colonised by artists long since, but the better of them, even in the days when the St Ives School was identifiably a major force, have always risen above any easy regionalism: Karl Weschke and Patrick Heron are nothing if not their own men.

We for our part are nothing if not equivocal in our attitudes towards immigrants and aliens and refugees. Weschke, a German and a prisoner of war, has lived here since 1948; yet though his work has been included in several representative exhibitions of British art over the years, his remains a coterie rather than a general reputation—which is both unfair and wasteful.

He is a figurative expressionist, his work characteristically dark and lowering in tone.

Part one: *Image and Form 1901-50*, selected by Nicholas Serota and Sandy Nairne, and

sponsored by British Petroleum and the Henry Moore Foundation, remains at Whitechapel until November 1, and should not be missed.

Across London, one to the north and one to the west, are exhibitions that bring us two senior and distinguished painters from remote Cornwall; but there the similarity ends. The Penwith Peninsula beyond Penzance and St Ives

are threatening, sinister and violent images, sometimes overtly so as the horse rears, the dog sniffs and snarls towards us, or the women writhes suggestively in the darkness, together or alone. Even the calmer images are charged with a latent physicality, the sense of a storm about to break.

A small but typical selection of his work is now on show at Moira Kelly Fine Art (9, Essex Road, N1, until October 7) along with a number of drawings and related studies, altogether well worth the journey into the north.

Patrick Heron's work is to be seen at Riverside Studios (until October 4) where he is showing a few of the paintings that he showed at the University of Texas in 1978, where he was visiting lecturer. Heron is a self-taught colourist, concerned, as he cleverly puts it in the title to his Texas lectures, with "The Colour of Colour"; by which I take it he means the physical reality of colour, and the palpable experience it affords. And indeed, through the sophisticated interplay of complementaries and secondaries, the physical sensation of colour burns and flickers across the eye-balls.

But all this suggests a certain theoretical preoccupation, yet Heron is markedly reluctant to commit himself absolutely, with none of the rigid simplicity of Albers, for example, nor even the more delicate regularity of Rothko. Instead Matisse figures flutter across the large flat colour fields of his canvases, the movement lateral rather than pictorial with everything locked into the jigsaw puzzle surface. Heron, who has been among the most atmospheric and suggestive of our abstract painters, has been in this corner for some time, and one cannot but wish that once again he would give his painterly intuition if not its head exactly, at least considerably more room.

Wigmore Hall

Elizabeth Connell

Elizabeth Connell is such a familiar singer at Covent Garden and the Coliseum it was hard to believe that on Sunday at the Wigmore Hall saw her London debut as a solo recitalist. The moment has been delayed to good effect; Miss Connell emerged from her programme with an already considerable reputation further enhanced.

Her choice of songs ranged widely and through four languages, but it was in German songs and German texts that she was most impressive. Rossini's *La Regata Veneziana*, the three songs of *La Regata Veneziana*, were used as a sparkling opening to settle nerves and flex the vocal muscles, but they hardly

prepared one for the Wesendonck *Lieder*, which Miss Connell patterned with the subtlest half-shades, and sustained the longest lines with unwavering tone. (She has recently returned from singing Ortrud and Brangäne at Bayreuth, and her Wagner had a stamp of authority.) A Wolf group of five songs chosen from both Spanish and Italian Songbooks as well as the Mörike settings was clearly planned to demonstrate every facet of the singer's rapidly developing craft—her ability to find an unexpected lightness of tone, a comic timing and a consistent feeling for the language.

In Duparc, however, the matching of voice and songs was

less precise. "L'Invitation au Voyage" can be made to sound the most perfect song to sound written, in the right performance, but Miss Connell missed something of its flexibility and suaveness, though each phrase was most carefully tended. She dealt better with the less sophisticated "Chanson Triste".

De Falla's *Seven Popular Spanish Songs* completed the announced programme and the quartet of languages. Uncomplicated high spirits for the most part, though "Nana" provided a sweet oasis of repose, and the final "Polo" was a resounding release of all tension. The uneven pianist was Geoffrey Parsons.

ANDREW CLEMENTS

Book Review

The modest fiddler

by MICHAEL COVENY

Topol by Topol, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £8.50, 222 pages

The best thing to be said about Topol's autobiography is that it makes no great claims for itself. It is a modest, reasonably well written account of an Israeli actor's life. Progress to international renown happened to coincide with the birth of a

Topol played Tevye the dairyman in *Fiddler on the Roof* in London in 1967. He has, of course, done lots of other things, made many films, met many people and ate a lot of food. But none of that is of any interest to us. Topol knows that, shrugging off pages and pages of completely tedious recollection with a beguiling charm. As a film actor he is, he admits, inevitably fourth choice for Jewish or Mediterranean character parts behind the late Zero Mostel, Alap Arkin and Peter Ustinov.

Fiddler made him a star and the film, directed by Norman Jewison, completed the process while destroying the musical. Topol has never repeated that success—the follow-up project, at each performance.

As part of the National repertoire, *The Oresteia* can have only 20 performances to the end of January. Each starts at

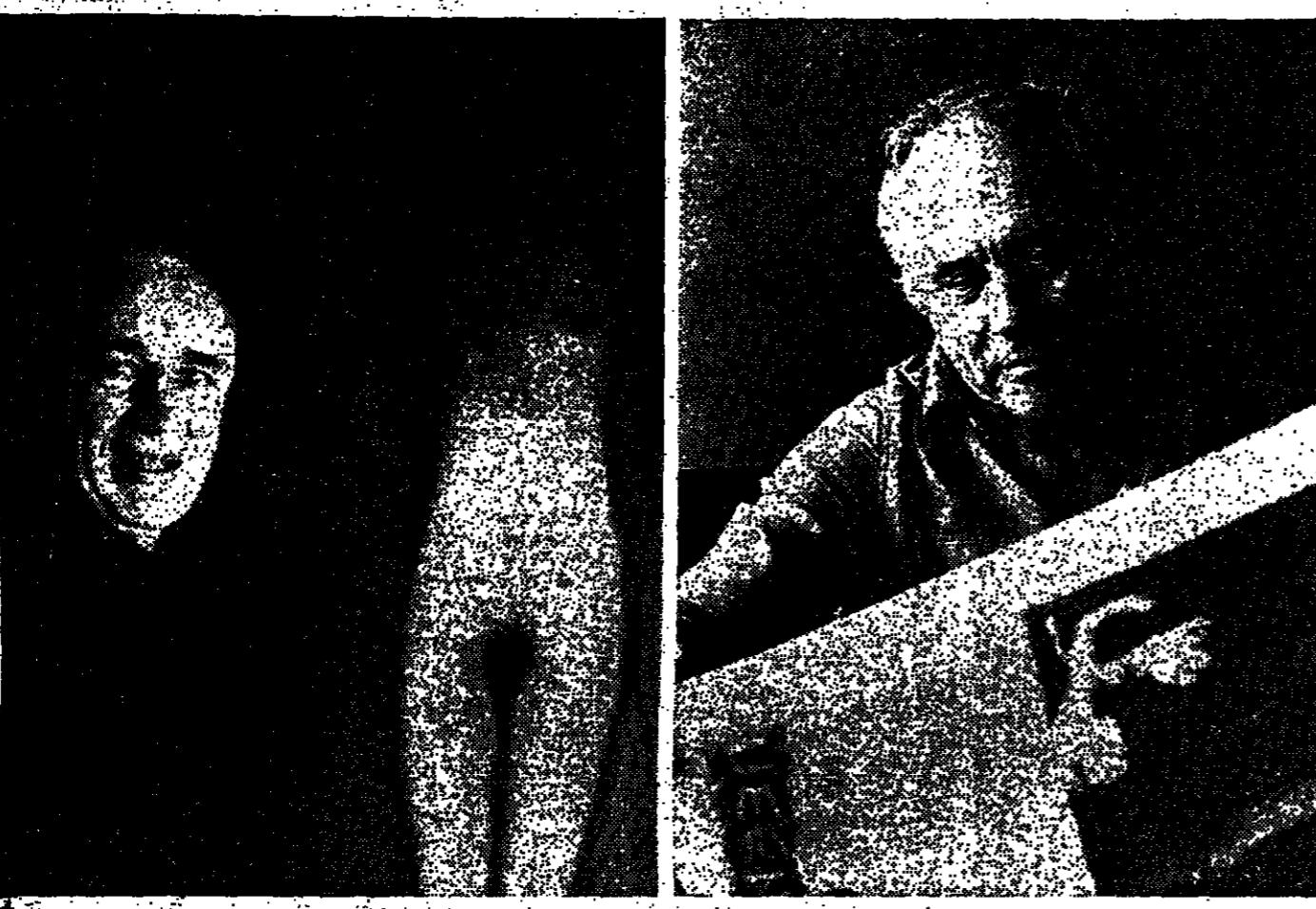
Hanah and his famous appearance in *Sallah*. I would put heavy money on him being much more interesting in *Sallah* than as "the Greek" in *For Your Eyes Only*.

Topol's father was a plasterer, his mother a heroic cook with a sewing-machine in the corner. He flew home for the Six Days' War in the middle of *Fiddler* and has had the ear of Ben Gurion, Moshe Dayan, Teddy Kollek, and many others. His show business friends include Danny Kaye, Salvador Dali, David Niven, and Roger Moore. He is loyal to his background, his family, and his roots. He sounds quite a pleasant chap. But what on earth is it all doing between hard covers?

'The Oresteia' at the Olivier

The National Theatre is to present from the end of November *Aeschylus' trilogy*. *The Oresteia* in a version by Tony Harrison, directed by Peter Hall. All three plays in the trilogy (*Agamemnon*, *Choephoroi*, *Eumenides*) are staged at each performance.

The *Oresteia* opens on Saturday November 28, preceded by five reduced price previews. It will be given in the Olivier Theatre.



Karl Weschke and Patrick Heron

Architecture

Swimming against the tide

by GILLIAN DARLEY

The authorities whose unenviable task it is to regenerate the depressed inner urban areas of our cities are becoming used to spending large sums of money—what might be termed "guilt money, meted out to save the consciences of the Government of the moment. But to receive the money is one thing—to spend it well, quite another.

What follows then is a good news story, though it has as its background years of apparently fruitless endeavour, words in place of action and, meanwhile, environmental deterioration confirming at an inexorable pace.

A few years ago a group of Newcastle-upon-Tyne residents from the down-at-heels western sector of the city, were found speaking about the ornamental pool outside the Civic Centre. The object of their activities was to draw attention to the fact that three swimming pools had been closed in the area in preceding years and the replacement remained resolutely attached to a drawing board within the city council architects' department.

The "swim-in" did the job: it was resolved to build a new pool and to site it within the grounds of Elswick Hall. The house was demolished in 1978 and the park which had, over the years, become less and less of a public asset, was to be remodelled, allowing for new all-weather sports pitches, the retention of one bowling green, a new pavilion for users of these amenities, as well as landscaping which would allow the best use to be made of its strongest asset—the mature trees—while improving the lie of the ground and the pathway system.

This ambitious programme cost close to £2m—75 per cent of that from Inner City Partnership money. The architects responsible for both park and pool were the Napier Collerton Partnership and it was their experience in the field of swimming pool design (they were responsible for an award-winning pool in a similarly leafy setting at Richmond, North Yorkshire) as well as the skills of a landscape architect within the practice that singled them out as appropriate consultants. That the people responsible for different parts of the whole could argue the toss under the same office roof was important to the successful outcome of the scheme and a close working



A view of Elswick Pool

Delius Festival in 1982

A festival to celebrate the music of Frederick Delius is to be held at the University of Keele, in Staffordshire, from March 6 to 14 1982.

It is only the fourth such festival to be held.

The opening concert of the 1982 festival will feature the Orchestra da Camera.

Other concerts will be given by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by the noted Delius specialist, Norman Del Mar, the Lindsay Quartet, and the University of Birmingham Music Society Choir and Orchestra.

Nevertheless, the whole venture is one of confidence designed to give back self-esteem to a long-rejected area and its residents and the signs so far, are that the money could hardly have been better spent.

A FINANCIAL TIMES CONFERENCE

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Tuesday September 15 1981

An old-style crisis

THERE CAN be no doubt that by all the traditional criteria the action of the Bank of England yesterday in raising money market interest rates by a little over one percentage point was thoroughly justified, possibly overdue and probably inadequate. It was designed to check both an accelerating decline of sterling in the exchange markets and a rapid rise in private credit demand. The Bank, therefore, intervened forcefully: this move, unlike earlier nudging of the markets, is intended to provoke a sharp rise in clearing bank base rates, which may well go up by 2 per cent as a result, and no doubt in building society rates too.

The need for such a move, however, represents a sharp setback for the Government's economic strategy. The need to protect sterling can be blamed largely on forces outside the Government's control — the high level of U.S. interest rates, and the very weak state of the oil market. The fact that there are also domestic arguments for higher rates comes nearer home. The rise in credit demand may be partly a consequence of the fall in sterling, and resultant fears of future price rises; but it is also a result of an aggressive drive into new credit markets by the banks. There has been no sign of effective credit restraint in recent months.

Symbolic value

So far as the exchange markets are concerned, yesterday's move may have a symbolic value which cannot be calculated in terms of arbitrage gaps and forward rates. As long as the UK authorities treated the exchange markets with benign neglect, they seemed to acquiesce in the fall, and the arguments for a switch out of sterling were strongly reinforced.

It is now clear that the Government wants to check the fall. It remains to be seen whether this fact is enough to give a modest extra margin over D-mark rates enough power to stabilise this key rate.

It remains to be seen, too, whether a rise of two per cent in the cost of credit is enough to check personal borrowers. Ministers must also wonder how far it is desirable. The unexpected strength of retail sales

and car registrations in August could be read as a welcome sign of recovery rather than a threat of inflation: it was to make such a recovery possible that the Government changed the balance of its policies in March. However, borrowing for consumer purchases should not on its own be a great threat to monetary policy, for there are large offsets as the cash flow of retailers and manufacturers is improved. So far as the money is spent on imports, the effect will be seen in the current account rather than in the growth of the money supply. A net rise in domestic borrowing and money holding is likely to represent either a recovery in activity, which the Government will hardly want to tip in the bud, or a rise in domestic lending for non-productive purposes.

It requires no great detective skill, nor any access to information obscured during the Civil Service dispute, to point to such a rise. The clearing banks and indeed the official Trustee Savings Bank have been moving aggressively into the housing market for some months. They have committed sums to investment and promotion which would hardly be possible without tacit official approval.

Conflict

Here there is a clear conflict between the Government's prejudice in favour of the widest possible competition in all markets and its monetary and economic objectives. The Government has suffered much fiscal agony and has made its own aggressive move into the personal savings market with the single aim of freeing funds for productive investment.

Allowing the banks to move into the gap left in the mortgage market short-circuits part of this effort and indicates the money supply in a meaningless way. Traditionalists would argue that it is unsound banking.

Even if these domestic contradictions were sorted out, the level of dollar interest rates would pose a dilemma for the UK, as it does for all European governments: but this can be resolved only through continued neglect, allowing the dollar to become sufficiently over-valued to discourage further flows or through concerted action. It is at home rather than internationally that yesterday's rise marks a policy failure.

Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet

IT WAS clearly a coincidence that the Government should have raised interest rates the day of the Cabinet reshuffle, but the message from both developments is the same. As the Prime Minister made plain in her radio interview last week, there is to be no substantial change in economic policies whatever the Government's present unpopularity.

It follows that that the best way of pursuing those policies is to have a united Cabinet. For it has been one of hallmarks of Mrs Thatcher's administration so far that some of the most damaging criticism has come from within the Cabinet itself. It is not that Ministers who disagree with the policies have put up a cogent alternative, but rather there has been a process of continual sniping which has served to undermine the Government's credibility.

Mrs Thatcher's objective was thus to create a Cabinet more after her own way of thinking, but without sending too many powerful figures to the back benches.

Promotion

In fact, the Prime Minister seems to have picked up where she left off in a smaller reshuffle last January. The chief characteristic then was the strengthening of the Treasury team through the promotion of Mr Leon Brittan to Chief Secretary while his predecessor, Mr John Biffen, was rewarded with his own department. Mr John Nott, a Thatcher admirer, was promoted to Defence Secretary.

Again this time all the main supporters of the economic policies have remained in the Cabinet. They have been joined by two others — Mr Norman Tebbit, who takes over at the Department of Employment and can be expected to adopt a tougher approach to trade union reform, and Mr Nigel Lawson who goes to Energy, having been Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the new FST, is a right-wing intellectual whose appointment again signals no change in economic thinking.

The only member of the Cabinet who has been dropped and who is likely to cause trouble from the back benches is Sir Ian Gilmore. Indeed his criticism already began in a series of interviews yesterday.

THE SERMONS delivered at Frankfurt's 130 Catholic and Protestant churches earlier this month took an unusual turn. Alongside the normal messages of spiritual uplift the faithful were urged "to fight, where men and women are losing their daily bread."

On the way out churchgoers were urged to sign the petition and join the campaign to save more than 4,000 threatened jobs

in following days the church bells rang in the shabby working class Gallus quarter of the city, not to urge the people to mid-week services but to bring them out on to the streets to demonstrate.

The unprecedented mobilisation of public opinion locally in Frankfurt—and on the wider stage of state and federal politics—combined last week to make Volkswagen, the country's second largest industrial corporation, retreat from plans to close Frankfurt's historic Adler typewriter works with the total loss of 3,600 jobs.

If Volkswagen had followed its business instincts nothing

it requires no great detective skill, nor any access to information obscured during the Civil Service dispute, to point to such a rise. The clearing banks and indeed the official Trustee Savings Bank have been moving aggressively into the housing market for some months. They have committed sums to investment and promotion which would hardly be possible without tacit official approval.

What saved the day—at least for the moment—was an unprecedented campaign against the fall in sterling, and resultant fears of future price rises; but it is also a result of an aggressive drive into new credit markets by the banks.

There has been no sign of effective credit restraint in recent months.

Symbolic value

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has been seen as a necessary strategy for the advanced countries. Volkswagen's purchase of Triumph-Adler, the veteran office equipment company, seemed to fit the bill. But, as Prof Friedrich Thomée, the acting chief executive (right) admitted last week, it has bought major problems. Plans to shut Adler's Frankfurt plant have been modified after fierce local opposition and VW's experience again raises questions about companies' abilities to diversify into unrelated fields.

trade unions, the churches and local and national politicians, which surprised and shocked the VW board in Wolfsburg. Volkswagen's senior executives discovered almost overnight a sense of social duty.

"People have a higher priority," said Professor Friedrich Thomée, acting VW chief executive articulating the company's new business gospel.

For the first time since it

acquired Triumph-Adler in

early 1978, VW had intervened directly in the company's day-to-day management to veto T-A's most direct solution to its difficulties: the shutting of the Frankfurt plant.

The company is still 40 per

cent owned by State interests

omic and Finance Ministries and the Economics Minister of Lower Saxony.

With unemployment in West Germany at its highest level for 30 years, the trade unions are growing restive with what they see as the failure of the Social Democrat/Freie Demokrat coalition in Bonn to take measures to stimulate the economy in order to save jobs.

Volkswagen itself has offered to take up to 2,000 Triumph-Adler workers on to the payroll at its car plants in northern Germany, but for trade unions in militant mood that is no solution. "Why should the workers go to the work?" demanded Bram Stein, chairman of the T-A workers' council in Frankfurt last week.

"It is this attitude which promises to present West Germany with one of its biggest problems in adjusting to high and rising unemployment for the German worker is becoming notoriously irritable."

VW admitted that its decision to save the Adler works — it is cutting jobs there from 2,600 to 1,000 and is aiming to lose another 700 jobs at two other T-A plants elsewhere in Germany — will cost it at least DM100m in 1982-83. It has accepted that, however, as the price of trying to restore industrial peace, the VW supervisory board incudes as deputy chairman, Eugen Lederer, the country's most powerful trade union leader and head of IG Metall, West Germany's largest union, as well as under-secretaries of state from the Federal Econ-

20 per cent by the Federal Government and 20 per cent by the state of Lower Saxony. VW had intervened directly in the company's day-to-day management to veto T-A's most direct solution to its difficulties: the shutting of the Frankfurt plant.

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to corporate power that have grown up in the Federal Republic since workers' representatives were placed on company supervisory boards in the mid-1970s. But it illustrates, too, the peculiarly sensitive position of Volkswagen itself to social pressures.

The company is still 40 per

cent owned by State interests

Why a takeover is turning into a nightmare

Adler its board had no clear idea about the company's prospects in the highly competitive office equipment market. "With Triumph-Adler we had not planned for losses but for profits and the development has been just the opposite," admits Professor Friedrich Thomée, acting chief executive of VW and one of the main architects of the move.

Not only VW, but also the Board of Triumph-Adler itself underestimated the speed with which the office equipment industry has moved and the impact which micro-electronics and the convergence of telecommunications and computer technology would have on Triumph-Adler's business.

Its products are still too heavily concentrated in the mechanical and electro-mechanical markets, such as mechanical and electrical typewriters. T-A's commitment to the "intelligent terminals" of the "office of the future" has come too late and is still inadequate, especially if it is to compete effectively. Companies like IBM, Nixdorf, Hewlett-Packard, Standard Electric Lorenz (part of ITT), Rank Xerox and Siemens are in the process of revolutionising the German office market and have left T-A far behind.

Earlier this month Triumph-Adler disclosed that it was

examining a drastic re-organisation programme which would

have cut its domestic workforce by almost a third and meant the closure of its second largest German plant, the Adler works in Frankfurt.

In announcing last week that the venerable Adler works would not be closed after all, but that instead employment there would be cut from 2,600 to 1,000 with bigger cut-backs than initially proposed at two other plants at Nuremberg and Schwandorf, Prof Thomée did not disguise the scale of the challenge the company is facing.

He conceded that Triumph-Adler's losses this year would be in excess of the DM 86m reported last year, despite a 25 per cent rise in turnover to DM 1.6bn.

In perhaps the most revealing commentary on VW's view of its troublesome subsidiary, Prof Thomée said it would be forced to look for a merger or co-operation agreements with other European office equipment producers to meet the challenge of U.S. and Japanese competition.

He confided ruefully that even this way out of the problem would only become practicable when the re-organisation measures had begun to bite.

When it announced the first

step in its takeover of Triumph-Adler, Volkswagen made great play of the fact that it would

maintain the independence of its new subsidiary, but the

arm's length relationship it established is now costing it dearly.

When it became clear that there was more amanu than just a downturn in the trade cycle, the motor manufacturer chose to stay on the sidelines itself, preferring to send in troubleshooters from McKinsey and management consultants.

The McKinsey team headed

by 42-year-old Dr Friedrich Schiefer came up with a plan to re-structure Triumph-Adler into six product division plants.

The new organisation plan

was not a cure for all ills, stresses Prof Thomée, but it was a pre-condition for future progress. "Previously it was impossible to see where responsibility lay or whose hands it was in," the VW finance chief admitted.

In practice responsibility lay

largely in the hands of one man, 54-year-old Gerd Weers — 28 years with Triumph-Adler, 12 of which were as chief executive.

By the time the McKinsey team had finished its work Herr Weers' role in day-to-day management was also over.

The man Prof Thomée

wanted to take over the troubled company was not other than Dr Friedrich Schiefer, the leader of the McKinsey study team.

He was only ruled out

when he pitched his demands

for the job too high. He wanted

not only the chairmanship of T-A, but also a seat on the main

Volkswagen board.

Prof Thomée himself is giving up the chairmanship of the Triumph-Adler supervisory board while staying as a member.

Since the heart attack of Herr Toni Schmicker, the VW chief executive in June, he has had to assume the burdens of leading Volkswagen through the world motor industry recession while still coping with his job as head of the company's job division.

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Volkswagen board. West Germany's biggest mechanical engineering group, and after having failed to gain majority control of Nixdorf, the dynamic small business computer concern.

It settled instead at a company with a somewhat patchy record. T-A's origins in the manufacture of motor cycles and later cars and since the war it has passed through the hands of Grundig, the West German consumer electronics group as well as Litton.

Even before the deal broke in Germany this month it had run into deep trouble elsewhere. Two works have already been closed in the Netherlands and nearly 1,000 jobs have been cut from the group's operations in the U.S.

Its big push to expand in the U.S. with a \$117m takeover in late 1978 of Pertec, the computer peripherals and data processing systems manufacturer, brought more problems. It has gained 38.4 per cent with further purchases from Litton and Diehl, the West German electronics group — has been a painful example of the pitfalls of diversification.

Flush with cash of over DM7bn built up as the German motor industry boomed in the second half of the 1970s, VW purchased its way into an industry in which it had no experience and was going through a period of revolutionary change.

The company into which VW entered its cash was not even its first choice. It turned to T-A after talks with Gutehoff-

ext.

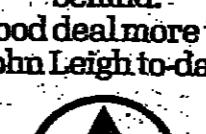
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Skelmersdale 32123

John Edwards, Commodities Editor, says that raw material producers may try to take a leaf out of Opec's book as demand picks up next year

Commodities: the producers try again

NO ONE knows for sure the identity of the powerful groups now controlling the tin market and pushing prices to near record levels.

It could merely be a very costly speculative venture. It could be inspired by oil-rich individuals, by companies or by countries which want to build up stocks of a metal with limited known reserves to establish a sort of "mine" above the ground without actually buying a mining company.

Or it could have wider implications. There is widespread suspicion, supported by circumstantial evidence, that the manipulation of the market is backed by tin-producing countries angered by the refusal of consumers to agree to raise the International Tin Agree-

ment's price range. If the producers have indeed decided to take unilateral action, this may herald a general change of attitude towards commodity price stabilisation by Third World countries. They have become increasingly disillusioned with every attempt to co-operate with consumers in international commodity agreements. And if the world economy does turn up next year they may well try to take advantage of it.

Ever since Opec shocked the industrialised world in 1974, there has been concern that producers of other vital raw materials might try the same tactic. Like oil, metals are a non-renewable resource with main known reserves mostly in the developing world. Tin would, in theory, be an ideal candidate for a cartel since it is produced in only a few countries. Three of the leading producers—Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand—are clustered close together and share common political interests.

The fear of a rash of "Opecs" has already encouraged industrialised countries

to support the integrated commodities programme, formulated by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) which would give Third World exporters a fairer deal. The programme includes the controversial common buffer stock fund which is supposed to provide financial backing for international commodity agreements. World market prices for a particular commodity would be controlled, if possible, within an agreed price range by means of support buying by buffer stock funds in times of surplus and selling off any accumulated stocks when there is a shortage. In theory, the market would be constantly in balance and there would be no more wild price fluctuations.

But once the initial panic about cartels died down the industrialised world started to have second thoughts. Would international commodity agreements really work? Are they just a way of putting up prices? And, most important of all, is it worth putting up funds aimed primarily at raising the cost of the industrialised world's imports?

The common buffer stock fund, initially planned to have resources of \$6bn, has been whittled down to \$750m, of which only \$330m would be used to support buffer stock operations: the rest is to be externally contributed and supposed to be a second "window" providing funds for promotion and marketing. Negotiating new agreements has proved a long and tedious business. Industrialised countries have dragged their feet and there is considerable in-fighting among producers themselves.

The failure to make much progress has cast a shadow over the whole North-South dialogue between rich and poor countries and the producers fear that the Reagan Administration



Every working day 32 London Metal Exchange dealing members trade on the ring in copper, lead, tin, zinc and silver for clients in every industrial country in the world

with its free market philosophy will make the task even more difficult. The EEC is not helping much either, although the election of President Mitterrand may make a difference.

Britain nowadays is known as a "hardliner" only one step behind the U.S. in spite of its Commonwealth links. Constant disagreement between Common Market countries has made it extremely difficult for the EEC to play a positive role in negotiations.

This emerges clearly from an examination of some individual commodities:

• Sugar: So far, the EEC has refused to join the International Sugar Agreement and is flooding the world market with heavily subsidised exports of surplus beet sugar.

Last week there were signs that France might be willing to change its opposition and agree to join the Sugar Agreement, although hard bargaining can be expected on its export quota

entitlement. The Sugar Agreement, with its mixture of export quotas and reserve stocks, linked to "trigger" prices, has not been able to control the market significantly.

• Coffee: The International Coffee Agreement has not been much more successful. Talks are currently going on in London to try to decide quota allocations, and price levels for 1981/82 season, but many delegates feel this is something of a farce since the Agreement has not prevented prices plunging through the "floor" level in spite of heavy cutbacks in quotas.

• Cocoa: The International Cocoa Agreement, which collapsed last year, has been renegotiated much to everyone's surprise. The prospect that support buying will start by October 1 at the latest has brought a dramatic rise in world cocoa prices from a five-year low of under 75 cents a lb to the present level of 106 cents.

They point out that the presence of known stocks depresses the market itself. It allows consumers to cut their stocks to low levels and encourages producers to boost output knowing they have an outlet.

However, the agreement does have a sliding scale: if the buffer stock acquires more than a certain amount of surplus cocoa within a 12-month period, the Agreement's price range is automatically lowered. The same applies in reverse; the price range is automatically increased if the buffer stock sells more than a certain amount.

• Rubber: A similar arrangement has been built into the national rubber agreement, which came into force provisionally last October, but has yet to be ratified by sufficient countries for the buffer stock to become operational.

The U.S. views the natural rubber pact as a possible model for commodity agreements gen-

erally. But it has not got off to an auspicious start. Recent reports that the Malaysian Government was holding back exports in an attempt to lift rubber prices from the depressed conditions in the market, and that Indonesia was planning similar measures, have caused some concern.

Consumers argue that there is not much point in having an agreement if producers are going to take unilateral action to push prices well above the range of the Agreement.

The U.S. and other consumer countries will be reluctant to ratify the pact and pay their contributions for the buffer stock fund if they think that the market has already been artificially inflated by producers. Malaysia claims that all it has done is to encourage private rubber growers to withhold supplies from the market while restricting export duties to help reduce "unhealthy speculative elements."

• Tin: Malaysia recently announced plans for a state-owned company to co-ordinate exports of its primary raw materials and it also has moved to strengthen Government holdings still further in tin mining and plantation companies.

Significantly, perhaps, the real manipulation of the market started immediately after the last meeting of the International Tin Council in July. Consuming countries, led by an unusual alliance of the U.S., Japan and the Soviet Union, rejected for the second time producers' demands for an increase in the International Tin Agreement price range.

But the real test for this agreement is to see whether a buffer stock scheme can work with a commodity that is difficult to store for long without deteriorating in quality. The answer will be to rotate the stock by buying and selling, but market traders are far from certain whether that is viable.

• The U.S. views the natural rubber pact as a possible model for commodity agreements gen-

erally. Standing that this forbearance would be rewarded by at least a modest adjustment. The further rejection at the July meeting, in spite of intense lobbying by moderate producing countries after the April debacle, was an even greater shock. So it would not be surprising if the producing countries felt justified in taking unilateral action at least until the October meeting of the Tin Council when demands for a rise in the Agreement's price range will undoubtedly be pressed again.

Negotiations for a new agreement, to replace the existing pact which expires next June, were long and difficult. In the end both Bolivia and the U.S. indicated they would probably not join Britain and West Germany are now too keen as a result. The Americans are still considering the situation, but there is a body of opinion among producer countries that it is better for the U.S. to stay out. They claim the Americans are a disruptive element with a natural instinct to oppose any price range increase and encourage other consumers to do the same.

Although the producers have learned the hard way (especially in coffee and cocoa markets) that it is difficult to sustain a united front for non-essential or renewable commodities, they feel more positive action could be taken to control the markets.

Industrial rationalisation in the consuming countries means that buying power is now often concentrated in the hands of a relatively few big companies. Producers argue, therefore, that they have a perfect right to form similarly powerful sales groups to protect their interests. When demand for raw materials recovers to more normal levels, the world may have to adjust to a new drive to strengthen producer power.

Letters to the Editor

Major capital investments

From Mr I. Johnson.

Sir—Spending £27bn on the proposed North Sea pipeline system to gather gas reported to be worth £25bn would seem to be a reasonable investment—which is not to say that smaller alternative schemes might not be even better. Yet this national investment seems likely to founder because of its effect on the public sector borrowing requirement. At the same time, the Government seems prepared to encourage considerably greater expenditure on a Channel tunnel or bridge, the economic and political benefits of which (to Britain) must be extremely doubtful.

The resources to pay for such investments are national assets, irrespective of whether they reside in the public or private sector: indeed, as taxation policies in the North Sea confirm whether or not wealth remains in the private sector depends only on the whim and perceived revenue needs of central government.

Investments amounting to billions of pounds invariably involve Governments in one way or another and it is fatuous to suggest that projects which can be funded without affecting the PSBR should be regarded more favourably than those that cannot.

To a certain extent, PSBR reflects the consequences of past uneconomic Concorde-like projects in both the public and private sectors. Assessing major investments honestly on a national basis (disregarding the effects of subsidies and taxes) should be mandatory and would reduce the "white elephant" population. Goodbye Channel tunnel/bridge!

I. A. Johnson

"Green Tiles," Mill Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks.

Barriers to mobility

From Mr F. Lane.

Sir—I would like to congratulate British Rail and its Chairman, Sir Peter Parker, on the launch of their rail card for the disabled, and one must endorse his views that all transport systems should try to remove the barriers to mobility.

This particularly applies to the airlines, who seem to be reluctant to make air travel more popular. Most rail, bus and underground services in England and certain countries of continental Europe have introduced special concessions for senior citizens.

I would have thought this makes a lot of sense. After all, here is a market of people with more leisure, but usually less income.

F. S. Lane

61 Cadogan Square, SW1.

Highly paid executives

From Mr C. D'Hooley.

Sir—Your correspondents and others who comment on high salaries paid to some captains of industry may well be right, but they quite miss the point. Two or three levels down in a company's hierarchy there are numbers of younger active working managers who can really affect company performance. They work at a level where they probably have a

nodding acquaintance with some of those at the lowest working levels of all. It is they who are separated from their families by trips overseas, who receive the 3.00 am phone calls and take work home by the briefcase.

These managers are, like most of us more inspired by what the future holds than their current remuneration. So paying a chief executive chairman £100,000 a year, more and obtaining £5,000 worth of extra effort from a hundred lower paid managers is an extremely good buy.

The difficulty is that once explained at the annual meeting the steam goes out of the idea and the money is wasted.

Ask those who don't believe in the incentive of expectations how much they stake on the pools each week and what they dream of doing with the money they never win. Notice that nationalised industry chairmen are usually appointed from outside and consequently receive more reasonable salaries as the lower-level incentive effect cannot apply.

It is all very well to believe in democratic control of industry but public opinion has an unstable way of handling people.

C. C. Dillaway.
"Highcroft,"
Gumtree Lane,
Bourbridge, Stroud,
Gloucestershire.

Tending the garden

From Mr P. Thurnham.

Sir—Mr Anthony Harris (September 10) urges the Chancellor to practise good husbandry by eliminating tax allowances.

He lists a corrected total of £16.4bn—but surely, he has missed the biggest allowance (and anomaly generator) of all, namely the arbitrary categories of exempt or zero rated VAT items?

An across-the-board VAT would simplify Customs and Excise administration, and raise an additional £50bn.

Such a sum would be sufficient not only to make a much-needed cut in employers' national insurance surcharges (so boosting employment and saving unemployment benefits), but also to introduce negative income tax for those for whom sheltered food costs are a necessity, rather than an invitation to gluttony, and neglected vegetable patches!

Peter G. Thurnham.
Sidesgarth,
Stanley,
Kendal,
Cumbria.

Physical laws

From the Managing Director,

Fulmer Research Institute.

Sir—It was very gratifying to note in Economic Viewpoint (September 10) that Mr Anthony Harris has realised the relevance of physical laws to fiscal performance. He correctly quoted Newton's First Law, but a rather more suitable law which has relevance to taxation policy is Le Chatelier's Principle. This states that when a constraint is placed upon the system, the system responds so as to minimise the effect of the constraint. Hence when new taxes are imposed the behaviour of those taxed is changed so as to minimise the effects of the

taxes on them.

It has long been my belief that a closer understanding of the way that established physical laws could be applied to the management of our economy would enhance the performance of those responsible for its manipulation.

I hope that Mr Anthony Harris will pursue his educational endeavours in this direction.

W. E. Duckworth.

Stocks Priors,
Slough, Berks.

Lessons to be learnt

From Mr K. Mannberg.

Sir—Schoolboy Jacob Rees-Mogg (September 12) will have a lot to learn before we can allow him to take over Lord Weinstock's job at GEC.

He will have to appreciate that one of the main reasons why British industry is in the deep trouble that it is because employees and management have been paying themselves too high remuneration and the shareholders too high dividends, thus leaving their companies uncapitalised, on the verge of bankruptcy, and with insufficient and outmoded plant, in many cases to meet the challenge of rising productivity in an ever more competitive climate.

Young Rees-Mogg will also have to realise that whatever size the reserves that a company is fortunate enough to put into its kitty, it is not just there to replace existing plant, but to buy highly advanced and sophisticated technology, perhaps robots, which in the case of a high technology manufacturer costs many times the present value, not even allowing for the expenses of research and development.

The true purchasing power of those reserves will be considerably less after inflation has taken its devastating toll, by the time the investment has to be made, so somebody has to do a bit of clever crystal gazing to suggest what that might be when that moment has arrived.

In any case, as Jacob grows up, he will find that his sight must be set on companies that pay him a more modest dividend, but that gain from steadily raising their intrinsic value, showing a prudent reserve policy, and give him good capital appreciation instead.

Perhaps, hopefully, that was the reason why young Jacob's was the only viable vote of dissent.

Kurt Mannberg.
Flat 10, Leitholme Court,
St. Andrew's Road,
Earlsdon, Coventry.

20 Arley Road,

Solihull, West Midlands.

As old as the hills

From Mr W. Grey.

Sir—Without clear monetary figures to guide them, you concluded your analysis (September 12) of the "new dilemma" facing them, "Ministers will have no choice but to rely on their instincts more than ever." But ought they to do so? And is their dilemma in fact a new one?

The answer surely is that the dilemma presented by different policy objectives, whether they are the fight against inflation, against unemployment, against a balance-of-payments deficit or surplus or whatever, is as old as the hills. So is the choice

to minimise the effect of the constraint. Hence when new taxes are imposed the behaviour of those taxed is changed so as to minimise the effects of the

taxes on them.

The dilemma is, or should be, perfectly obvious. In its management of the economy the Government, far from relying on instinct or allowing itself to be blinded by preoccupations with this or that meaningless figure (not to say fetish), should follow the simple rule of always leaning against the exchange-rate wind. It should, in other words, conduct the nation's affairs so that the exchange rate as far as possible is at all times kept stable.

This is, of course, the principle underlying the European monetary system, joining which sooner could therefore have spared us a lot of trouble. Happily, it is never too late to repent. Let the Government therefore throw timidity—and misguided instincts—out of the wind and follow this lodestar without further delay. Nothing could more quickly release us from the straitjacket of our own making.

W. Grey.
12, Arden Road,
Finchley, N.8.

Home video market

From Mr N. Hepburn.

Sir—We are given to understand from normally accurate sources of prediction that sales of home video equipment this year will approximate 800,000, next year 1.2m and possibly up to 5m to 1985/86. We have even read that by the end of the 1980s more than half the homes in Britain will own or rent home video equipment.

Doing some personal research recently with a view to acquiring some video equipment, we have been advised that of the fifteen or so different models available, all but two are manufactured in Japan and the remaining two are manufactured in Austria and Germany respectively. None is manufactured in Britain. Why?

N. W. Hepburn.
20 Arley Road,
Solihull, West Midlands.

Plucked and emaciated

From Mr W. Heymannson.

Sir—For years now Chancellors of the Exchequer have plucked the maximum amount of feathers to achieve the minimum amount of squawking. Feather plucking can cause emaciation, some birds become lame ducks."

Government policy on oil company taxation, and banks' windfall profit, should be tempered by the old saying from Strasbourg "you cannot get foie gras and eggs from the same duck".

W. Dennis Heymannson.
The Manor House,
Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Gripperrods S. Pearson shows 10.6% rise halfway falls in second half

A REDUCTION in the second half has led to a shortfall in profits at Gripperrods Holdings for the year ended April 30 1981. The dividend, however, is maintained.

The year's profit fell from £1.33m to £1.12m, after being virtually unchanged at halfway. Turnover of the group, which makes and sells carpet underlays and laying fittings, rose from £15.6m to £16.07m.

The final dividend is 5.25p gross to give shareholders an unchanged total of 7.5p gross.

After tax of £42,975 (£599,857) and minorities nil (£257), the net profit attributable came out at £1.05m (£0.78m).

Earnings per share are shown at 43.22p (29.08p). On a CCA basis the net taxed profit was £994,877.

Chambers and Fargus ahead to £412,000

FULL YEAR pre-tax profits at Chambers and Fargus showed an upturn from £355,834 to £411,860 for the year to June 27 1981. The final dividend has been raised to 1.5p, making a total of 2p compared with the previous 1.5p.

Turnover was lower at £8.55m (£11.83m). The tax charge was down to £10.567 (£18.358) and the profit after tax was up to £318,283 (£169,476).

The company is involved in seed crushing and oil refining. The start of this year was beset with shortages of both seed and oil and the company expected difficulty in continuing the trend of first half pre-tax profits, which were £234,000 (£83,091).

G.T. JAPAN INV. TRUST

Pre-tax profits of G.T. Japan Investment Trust improved from £452,013 to £503,012 for the year ended June 30, 1981, and the net total dividend is being lifted by 0.5p to 4.5p per 25p share by a final of 4p, compared with 3p.

Gross income for the period was higher at £1.7m (£1.62m). Tax rose from £231,630 to £262,378 and stated earnings per share came through at 4.81p, against 4.41p.

In their interim statement the directors anticipated total dividends of not less than 2p on the information then available.

PROFITS BEFORE tax and minorities at S. PEARSON AND SON rose by 10.6 per cent to £18.8m in the six months to the end of June, making up most of the ground lost in the first half of last year when profits dropped from £20.6m to £17.9m.

However, the interim dividend has been maintained for a second year running and no decision has yet been made about the final. Mr Michael Hare, the chief executive said yesterday. Stated earnings fell from 12.1p to 10.1p before extraordinary credits.

Fortunes of the individual businesses which make up the widely diversified group varied considerably. The major contributors to the profit increase were the North American interests particularly in the oil sector, and Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank.

Pearson Longman, the group's quoted publishing subsidiary, showed marginal improvement as a result of recovery in book publishing, and Fairey, the recently acquired engineering company, has returned to profitability. But the glass and tableware businesses of Royal Doulton, and the leisure interests within Madame Tussaud's were sharply down.

Fairey, the engineering group

	First half	First half
Turnover	£27,443 261,068	£26,000 260,000
Pearson Longman	153,513 124,237	153,513 124,237
Royal Doulton	153,513 124,237	153,513 124,237
Midhurst Corp.	45,200 26,200	45,200 26,200
Madame Tussaud's	3,775 3,223	3,775 3,223
Other interests	685 767	685 767
Profit before tax	19,844 17,859	19,844 17,859
Pearson Longman	5,877 5,571	5,877 5,571
Royal Doulton	5,625 5,455	5,625 5,455
Whitbread Trust	7,268 5,455	7,268 5,455
Midhurst Corp.	7,781 3,383	7,781 3,383
Other interests	381 341	381 341
Interest & expenses	3,214 3,180	3,214 3,180
Minority interest	6,214 4,235	6,214 4,235
Profit after tax	13,630 12,897	13,630 12,897
Pearson Longman	3,595 3,484	3,595 3,484

£ Excluding banking and investment income.

acquired for £22m last year, lost £2.6m pre-tax in the 12 months to December. But Mr Hare said yesterday that it had turned a profit of £1.1m in the six months under review. The group is still considering legal action over the purchase from the National Enterprise Board.

Fairey forms part of the Royal Doulton division, whose pre-tax profits dropped from £5.5m to £19,000 between the two first halves. Despite price rises in the first half of the year averaging about 8.1 per cent, both the glass and the tableware business have been "disappoint-

ing", according to Mr Hare. Although they have just about maintained market share, market are generally smaller.

Since the reorganisation of portfolio investments, Whitbread's profits now come largely from the Cedar Point amusement park in the U.S. has also made a first time contribution of about £4m.

Extraordinary items are down to £92,000 from £83m last year which had the benefit of the £7.8m sale of half the group's interest in Westpool Investment Trust. This year the remaining Westpool interest is represented by a £7.0m dividend included in other interests.

See Lex

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Midway setback for Low & Bonar

ASLUM P in profits in its UK/Europe division and to a lesser extent in North America has hit the first half figures of Low and Bonar. But a "substantial improvement" is expected in the second half and with this in mind the directors are maintaining the interim dividend at 5p.

Sales of the group, which is engaged in packaging, engineering, textiles and travel, rose from £73.5m to £78.72m. On the profit side, however, UK/Europe fell from £1.62m to £274,000 and North America from £1.05m to £879,000, and interest and charges were up to £20,000 (£73,000). This led to an overall pre-tax profit of £1.7m, compared with £24,840 in the corresponding year ended May 31, 1980.

The interim dividend will be payable on November 23 to loan shareholders exercising their conversion rights on November 1. It will be able to participate. Earnings for the half year were 2.15p (1.51p) and fully diluted 2.13p (1.83p). For the full year ended November 30, 1980 group profit before tax came to £7.84m, from which a total dividend of 14.5p was paid.

In their report accompanying the half year figures the directors state that all the manufacturing companies within UK/Europe were severely affected by the recession and all returned lower earnings.

The mechanical engineering companies were the hardest hit and, in the case of Bonar Langley Alloys and Bonar Hugh Smith, aggregate losses of some £850,000 were incurred. Action has been taken, and will continue to be taken, to achieve the early elimination of these losses and to improve the future profit performance of the UK/Europe region.

To date two textile companies, G. and J. Johnston (Wemyss) and Wemyss Weavercraft, have been sold while the polypropylene extrusion and weaving units of Bonar Textiles have been reorganized.

In the packaging division two merchanting businesses have been sold and negotiations begun for the disposal of the remaining merchanting businesses. In addition, James Nicholls and Son, a paper bag manufacturing company, has been closed and production transferred to Bonar Bury and Bonar at Bury.

BASE LENDING RATES

	1981	1980	
A.B.N. - Bank	12 1/2%	Grindlays - Bank	12 1/2%
Allied Irish Bank	12 1/2%	Guinness Mahon	12 1/2%
American Express Bk	12 1/2%	Hambros - Bank	12 1/2%
Amro Bank	12 1/2%	Berthie & Gen. Trust	12 1/2%
Henry Ainscough	12 1/2%	Hill Samuel	12 1/2%
Arbuthnott Letham	12 1/2%	C. Hoare & Co.	12 1/2%
Associates Corp. Corp.	12 1/2%	Hongkong & Shanghai	12 1/2%
Banco de Bilbao	12 1/2%	Knocksey & Co. Ltd.	12 1/2%
ECGI	12 1/2%	Longriss Trust Ltd.	12 1/2%
Bank of Cyprus	12 1/2%	Lloyds Bank	12 1/2%
Bank of N.S.W.	12 1/2%	Midland Bank	12 1/2%
Banque Belge Ltd.	12 1/2%	Edwards Mansell & Co.	12 1/2%
Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise S.A.	12 1/2%	Midland Bank	12 1/2%
Barclays Bank	12 1/2%	Samuel Montagu	12 1/2%
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	12 1/2%	Morgan Croft	12 1/2%
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	12 1/2%	National Westminster	12 1/2%
Bristol & West Invests	12 1/2%	Norwich General Trust	12 1/2%
Btp. Bank of Mid.-East	12 1/2%	P. S. Refson & Co.	12 1/2%
Brown Shipley	12 1/2%	Silverbury's Bank	12 1/2%
Canada Permit Trust	12 1/2%	E. S. Schub	12 1/2%
Cayzer Ltd.	12 1/2%	Standard Chartered	12 1/2%
Cedar Holdings	12 1/2%	Trade Dev. Bank	12 1/2%
Charhouse Jephcott	12 1/2%	Trustco Savings Bank	12 1/2%
Chouartons	12 1/2%	TCB Ltd.	12 1/2%
Citibank Savings	12 1/2%	United Bank of Kuwait	12 1/2%
Clydesdale Bank	12 1/2%	Whitewater Laidlaw	12 1/2%
C. E. Coates	12 1/2%	Williams & Glyn's	12 1/2%
Consolidated Credits	12 1/2%	Wintrust Secs. Ltd.	12 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	12 1/2%	Yorkshire Bank	12 1/2%
Corinthian Secs.	12 1/2%		
The Cyprus Popular Bk	12 1/2%		
Duncan Lawrie	12 1/2%		
Eagle Trust	12 1/2%		
E. T. Trust Limited	12 1/2%		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	12 1/2%		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	12 1/2%		
Robert Fraser	12 1/2%		
Antony Gibbs	12 1/2%		

Gold mine dividends please the market

After tax £1.19m (£1.88m), minorities £201,000 (£263,000) and extraordinary credits of £537,000 (£130,000), the attributable profit for the period fell by £1m to £249,000.

The extraordinary item is in the aggregate of losses on sale of assets, costs in respect of disposal and net profit on the sale of an 80 per cent interest in London Hydraulic Power Company for £12m to a group of investors headed by N. M. Rothschild.

The exceptionally high charge for tax follows a write-off of ACT amounting to £298,000 in respect of the interim dividend.

Profit before interest was £2.62m (£4.72m). A divisional split in 2000 shows: packaging £708 (£1.385); engineering loss £172 (£1.164); profit; textiles £1.842 (£1.617); travel £245 (nil).

Geographically the analysis was: UK/Europe £747 (£1.622); North America £678 (£1.054); Africa £1.806 (£1.968); Pacific loss £1.38 (£72 profit).

• comment

Low and Bonar is undaunted by this 57 per cent slide in pre-tax profits and predicts a substantial improvement in the second half. However, loss-elimination activities at the UK mechanical engineering companies—involve some 200 redundancies—will produce extraordinary debts for the full year which should cancel out the £1m credit from the first half. At the same time, the engineering sector remains depressed and shows few signs of a swift recovery. Africa remains the sweetener, providing nearly 70 per cent of the trading profit, but even this contribution has weakened and trading conditions remain fickle. In the wake of its Canadian acquisition last year, the company has taken on about £14m in medium and long-term loans which, thanks to record high interest rates, have doubled the group's income gearing to 35 per cent. The balance sheet is not overly stretched, however, and the group continues to invest in its UK activities, notably textiles where trading remains profitable.

It does seem likely that the final dividend will be maintained, so that the shares down 5p to 195p have a prospective yield of more than 11 per cent.

RMP holders urged to accept TCL

WITH THE fortunes of Rand Mines Properties (RMP) now clearly linked to the gold price and the property market in South Africa, shareholders would be well advised to accept the offer from Transvaal Consolidated Land (TCL), according to Mr Tony Petersen, TCL's chairman.

TCL is the 59.8 per cent owned mining arm of South Africa's Barlow Rand group, while RMP is owned as to 60.1 per cent by the same group. The TCL offer is either a straight one for seven share exchange, or one for eight plus 105 cents (61p) in cash.

At yesterday's prices of 52p for RMP and 365p for TCL, the bid values the whole of the latter at around £45m.

Mr Petersen said that by accepting the offer, RMP holders could share in a variety of gold mining ventures, including the RMP dump, re-treatment programme, as well as the steadily rising profits from coal mining. Coal mining profits are likely to rise, he added, as TCL is in line for further export allocations and new contracts with the state electricity authority Escom.

OFFER FOR RENONG TIN

HONG KONG'S Sparkstream Investments has offered a price of \$115.70 for each of the shares in Renong Tin Dredging if does not already own, valuing Renong at a total of \$822m (£55.8m).

Sparkstream is the company which earlier this month bought a 40.9 per cent stake in Renong from Stratus Trading Company for \$89.38m.

Renong is an investment holding company with no remaining tin mining operations. In the year to June 30 1980, the last for which figures are available, the company made a net profit of \$2257.140 and paid dividends totalling 8p.

PEARSON LONGMAN

LONGMAN - PENGUIN - FINANCIAL TIMES - WESTMINSTER PRESS - GOLDCREST FILMS & TELEVISION

Results for half year to 30th June 1981 (unaudited)

	1981	1980
Half year	Half year	Half year
Turnover	£124.4m	£105.9m
Profit before tax	£5.9m	£5.6m
Profit after tax	£4.5m	£4.4m
Earnings per ordinary share	12.2p	11.4p

Pearson Longman profits for the first six months were slightly ahead of last year, but trading conditions continue to be very difficult for our two newspaper businesses.

The book companies have done better. Longman improved its profits by more than one third. The very healthy state of its business in Africa and the Arab world more than compensated for a deterioration of its United Kingdom markets caused by educational and other public expenditure cuts. Penguin has reduced by more than £1 million the substantial loss incurred in the first six months of last year. The first half year is traditionally its weak trading period. The new publishing approach is showing results.

The Westminster Press performance reflects the inevitable damage caused by an almost total collapse in its job advertising market. The Financial Times newspaper is still suffering from excessive manpower costs, and a major programme to reduce

these has been announced.

At the end of June we announced new initiatives in the visual media. The acquisition of a 25 per cent interest in Yorkshire Television will take effect on 1st January 1982 and we have formed a new holding company, Goldcrest Films and Television, to expand the scale and scope of our film and television production interests. In addition, Longman has launched a new line of educational video products.

Any significant improvement in the second six months to December 1981 compared with the same period last year will depend on the performance of the newspaper businesses.

The directors have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary share capital of 7.5p per share, the same as last year. This dividend will be paid on 5th November 1981 to shareholders on the register of members on 8th October 1981.

MINING NEWS

Amax delays public float of Australian interests

BY GEORGE MILLING-STANLEY

THE RECENT weakness of the reports on the June quarter from the South African gold producers was the way in which the weakness of the rand in terms of the U.S. dollar cushioned the mines against the worst effects of the lower gold price.

This was allied to stringent control of the rate of increase in working costs, as with the mines in the Gencor group, the outcome was generally higher net profits, and this has been reflected in the latest dividend payments from the mines.

With an eye to the lower gold price, the market had scaled down its expectations from the mines, and was thus pleasantly surprised by the announcement of payments well up to the most optimistic forecasts.

Winkelman's bank of 190 cents (110p) was above best expectations, as were the 86 cents from Kinross, and the 25 cents from Lesile, both from South Africa.

The payments are compared in the accompanying table.

The Barlow Rand group's Harmony also topped all forecasts with an interim payment of 120 cents.

Sept. March Sept. cents cents cents

Bracken 30 30 47

Kinross 88 80 107

Lesile 25 29 31

Winkelman 55 40 45

Winkelman 190 220 230

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COWAN, de GROOT LIMITED

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement for the year ended 30th April 1981

Trading conditions are the worst we have experienced in post-war times.

Whilst the level of last year's turnover has almost been maintained, operating costs, many of which cannot be trimmed in the short term, have continued to rise.

We maintained the dividend of 3.5p per share. The net pretax profit was £927,000 compared with £2.57m. Turnover was £42.0m against £44.1m last year. Net assets remain unchanged at 73.3p per share.

Our finances remain sound. Trading conditions are still far from easy, but we are continuing to make every effort to improve profitability. The recession sets problems not previously encountered, but we remain optimistic about the longer term future. Certainly when there is an upturn in the economy, we will be well placed to take full advantage of it and fully intend to do so.

Derrick Cowan, Chairman.



FOUR DIVISIONS — TOYS AND GIFTWARE PRODUCERS — ELECTRICAL AND HARDWARE WHOLESALERS — MACHINERY IMPORTERS — RUSSIAN SHOP.

COWAN, de GROOT LIMITED, 11 JOHN STREET, LONDON WC1N 2EG.

Keppel Shipyard Limited

U.S.\$25,000,000
9 per cent Bonds 1983

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all bondholders of the above-captioned issue that:

For the purchase year ended 15th August 1981, the aggregate principal amount of Bonds arising from purchases made pursuant to Clause Six of the Conditions of the Bonds and from acceptance of Bonds surrendered pursuant to the Purchase Agency Agreement is U.S.\$961,000.

THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SINGAPORE LIMITED 15th September 1981

NOTICE — SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF SANVIK AKTIEBOLAG, Sweden

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that copies of the Semi-Annual Report of Sanvik Aktiebolag covering the first half of the 1981 activities will be available — from September 15th — at the office of Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd, 22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ.

The Board of Directors
SANDVIK

COMPANY NOTICES

CANON INC.

NOTICE OF CONVOCATION

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

ADVICE has been received from Tokyo that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Company will be held at the head office of the Company, 3-20-2 Shimbashi 3-Chome, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo 105, Japan, on Tuesday, September 20th, 1981, at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 20th, 1981. The proposal to be considered at the meeting is the authorisation of the Board of Directors to enter into an agreement with the holders of a majority of the shares.

Meetings Constituting the objects of the Meeting:

Resolution: Approval of the Merger Agreement between the Company and Tochigi Canon Inc. The Merger Agreement is as set forth below.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSITION

Proposition: Approval of the merger agreement between the Company and Tochigi Canon Inc.

This is to seek your approval of the relevant merger agreement made between the Company and Tochigi Canon Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dif Corp.

MERGE AGREEMENT (Copy)

Canon Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "A") and Tochigi Canon Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "B") hereby enter into this agreement concerning a merger as follows:

A and B shall effect a merger between them so that A will be the surviving entity and B shall be dissolved.

A owns all of the shares in B and therefore, A shall issue its new shares and shall not increase its total share of the merger.

Of the amount of surplus remaining after the merger, A shall reserve an amount equal to B's capital reserve as reserves out of profit an amount equal to the amount of B's capital reserve and other retained earnings.

Arbitrarily and other retained earnings.

The merger date shall be January 1, 1982, provided, however, that such date may be delayed by up to one year if there is a merger between A and B if it is necessary to account for the progress of the merger procedure.

Arbitrarily shall turn over to A, or the merger date, all of its assets, liabilities and rights and to B, or the merger date, all of its assets and its other accounts as of June 30, 1981 and its other accounts.

With respect to the changes in its assets and liabilities, the merger date, from June 30, 1981 to the merger date, shall indicate clearly to A the particular nature of any such changes.

Arbitrarily, after the execution of this agreement, the merger date, all of its assets, liabilities and rights and to B, or the merger date, all of its assets and its other accounts as of June 30, 1981 and its other accounts.

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Arbitrarily,

Amey Roadstone profits down as volumes drop 17%

THE SLUMP in UK construction activity in the year to June 20 1981 exceeded the worst fears of Amey Roadstone Corporation. Although turnover fell by only 11 per cent to £223m, volumes were some 17 per cent lower than in the previous year, and operating profits slipped to £8.2m from £13.8m in 1979-80.

Demand for concrete pipe had already begun to fall in 1979-80, but for most products the decline this year was more rapid than expected. It was not possible to plan a smooth reduction in costs, according to the chief executive Mr Charles Spence, and the group had done well to contain the erosion of margins.

Cost reductions in the year had been achieved by means of plant closures and redundancies. Seventeen per cent of the UK workforce (1,500 people) and 9 per cent of the U.S. (250 employees) had been made redundant. The remainder were on greatly reduced working hours. Central overheads, cut in

real terms, were close to 1980 levels.

Mr Spence added that Amey was not assuming any volume increase in making its plans for the next 12 months, although the decline now seemed to have levelled off.

Longer-range planning was next to impossible in the present climate: "The industry just doesn't know where it is, in regard to levels of demand."

A turn-round in Amey's contracting subsidiary, which contributed profits of £1.4m after losing £2.6m last time, helped to offset the general gloom.

Amey's pre-tax profit was £4.2m (£3.7m). This total was struck after the present company - Consolidated Gold Fields - decided to waive interest payments of about £4m. The dividend paid to Consolidated Gold Fields has been increased by a similar amount to £1.2m.

On a current cost basis, profit attributable to the holding company was £4.8m.

Heavy first half losses made by James Wilkes

A NET taxed loss of £479,203 compared with profits of £183,325, is reported by James Wilkes, the West Midlands manufacturer of business forms and equipment, for the half year to June 30 1981. Turnover plunged from £6.06m to £3.82m. The loss was after tax down from £62,100 to £82,671, an extraordinary debit of £619,734 (nil) relating to a trading loss of £11,702 of Wilkes Business Forms. At the date of disposal this amounted to £762,384.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.5p - last year's total was 4.125p.

Tioxide ahead at halfway

A RECOVERY from depressed sales levels helped pre-tax profits from Tioxide Group and subsidiaries to ease up from £6.46m to £8.73m for the half year to June 30 1981. Last year's full year pre-tax profits were £7.22m. Sales were higher this year at £93.14m, from £88.11m. Tax represented a high proportion of group profits because of unreduced UK losses. Tax rose to £4.45m (£3.68m) and post-tax profits were £2.32m (£2.30m). The deduction for minorities was 20.16m (20.35m) leaving attributable profits at £2.16m (£2.04m). Earnings per share were 6.5p (6.5p).

The Group is held in equal shares by Imperial Chemical Industries and Lea Industries Group.

New London Props. fall

Pre-tax profits for New London Properties, whose main activity is property investment, fell from £745,556 to £606,609 for the half year to June 30 1981.

The net interim dividend is the same again at 4p. Tax was lower at £313,000 (£383,394).

The group is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Pearl Assurance Company.

Gnome holding on to its market share

Gnome Photographic Products is maintaining its market share despite very fierce competition in many instances from imported products. Enjoying grants, tax advantages and more recently, currency exchange rate benefits to a level which in other circumstances almost amount to dumping, Mrs H. J. Rees, the chairman says in her annual review.

Mrs Rees points out that during the past months the group has produced a number of new products which are all designed to maintain and increase the profitability per unit for safeguard, as far as the company is able, against future rising costs.

She adds that the Elite subsidiary continues to hold its own in a hardening market.

Sevalco £384,619 in the red

IN 1980 Sevalco slumped to tax losses of £234,619, against profits of £773,105, on turnover £2.65m higher at £21.94m.

There is to be no dividend payment in respect of the year in which there was a distribution of 25p, and there is again to be no tax charge.

The pre-tax losses were incurred after interest of £248,451 (£634,468) on loans payable within five years and interest of £398,396 (£160,506) on long term loans, depreciation of £663,591 (£639,216), loss on disposal of fixed assets £140,289 (£20,650) and underfunded pension scheme provision £130,000 (nil).

Sevalco is wholly owned by Sevalco (Holdings) which is in turn equally owned by Phillips Petroleum Company UK and Columbian International Chemicals Corporation.

Downturn at Argus Press Holdings

Pre-tax profits of the Argus Press Holdings printer and publisher, fell from £1.08m to £599,000 in the six months to June 30, 1981. Turnover rose from £20.2m to £24.23m.

Trading profit was down from £1.55m to £1.44m and net interest payable was £743,000 (£469,000). Tax was lower at £267,000 (£205,000), and after minorities unchanged at 28,000 and extraordinary debits this time of £21,000, attributable profits were £403,000 against £563,000.

Stated earnings per 25p share before extraordinary items are 12.91p (17.22p).

All ordinary shares of the company are owned by the British Electric Traction Company.

LAIRD RIGHTS

Acceptances have been received in respect of 98.46 per cent of the 15.7m shares of Laird Group offered in a rights issue. The balance has been sold in the market and the net proceeds amount to approximately 19.83p per new share.

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DEFINITIONS OF TERMS BY LONDON SICP

Bramall tops £1m but holds interim at 2.05p

Bramall, the Bradford-based motor vehicle dealer, advanced from £918,000 to £1.05m for the first half of 1981, a rise of 14 per cent, on turnover £6.04m higher at £22.58m.

Mr. Tony Bramall, the chairman, says profit margins on new vehicle sales continued to be slim and while new vehicle sales in August were a record for the group in any one month, and have got the current six months off to a good start, there is no sign of any improvement in the underlying trend of order intake - particularly in commercial vehicle sales.

However, he is confident that the spread of group activities will subject to no major unforeseen circumstances, produce satisfactory results for the year as a whole.

He points out that while all

group dealerships sold marginally fewer new units at lower margins than in the corresponding period, the service, parts and used car business returned satisfactory results. There was also a substantial recovery in contract hire, leasing and hire purchase following the easing of interest rates.

Of the pre-tax profit £770,000 stemmed from the group's main dealerships and the contract hire, leasing and hire purchase activities contributed 37 per cent more at £277,000.

Following changes in legislation affecting first year allowances on new vehicles and stock, the chairman believes the directors have deemed it prudent to provide for a more realistic tax charge in respect of the current year and have calculated this item at a rate of 43 per cent for

the half year, compared with a rate of 23 per cent for the 12 months to December 31 1980. As a result tax for the six months rose sharply from £36,000 to £452,000.

The attributable balance emerged at £555,000 (£882,000) out of which interim dividend payments absorbed £88,000 (£83,000), net of dividends amounting to £21,767 waived by the chairman.

Stated earnings per share were lower at 11.3p (17.2p) but the net interim dividend is being maintained at 2.05p per share for 1981. A total of 5.5m shares were paid from pre-tax profits marginally down at £1.67m (£1.78m).

Current cost accounting reduces the taxable surplus to £76,000 (£961,000) and on the same basis earnings per share are given as 6.1p (11.1p).

Dixons Photographic counts the disturbance costs of riots

THE URBAN riots during the early part of the summer proved expensive for Dixons Photographic says Mr Stanley Kalms, the chairman, in his annual report. He says the group suffered in terms of the disturbance to established shopping patterns and disruption to those retail stores which suffered from damage and looting.

Commenting on the current economic situation, he says it is quite clear that under the present Government policies, the immediate future will remain depressed.

The board's immediate task, therefore, is to keep the company as lean and efficient as possible and to maintain it in a state of readiness to move into top gear at the right moment.

The group has invested

significant sums on electronic data capture equipment and systems, and is continuing to spend heavily on new stores, store improvement, market experimentation and staff training.

He then points out that the pharmaceuticals division is still at the crossroads, with gross profit margins having stabilised at a very low level. It is now concentrated into 11 depots. The division remains only marginally profitable and will require close and continuous monitoring.

PTP, the film processing division, is committed to a heavy capital programme and this will ensure it remains highly competitive. Overseas, the group is busy exploring new markets and developing new products.

Mr Kalms says the strength of the group's financial resources remains impressive. Liquidity

increased by £10m during the year to May 2, 1981, and with net borrowings reduced to virtually nil, it has adjusted reserves to take advantage of the inevitable, if delayed, improvement in the economy.

The financial year has got off to a good start overseas, and in the UK the group, he says, will not be unaffected by the depressed economic climate.

As known, pre-tax profits for the year to May 2 were £10.78m (£10.92m). Fixed assets improved from £23.28m to £24.62m, cash and short-term deposits were £12.97m (£10.41m) and bank loans and overdrafts (unsecured) dropped from £18.68m to £11.33m. Net current assets stood at £36.56m compared with £37.89m, and shareholders' funds were £60.15m (£53.62m).

Meeting, Connaught Rooms, WC, October 15, at noon.

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who use T-bill futures also trade the IMM's CD futures contract, generating liquidity. This insures you of rapid order filling and the best prices.

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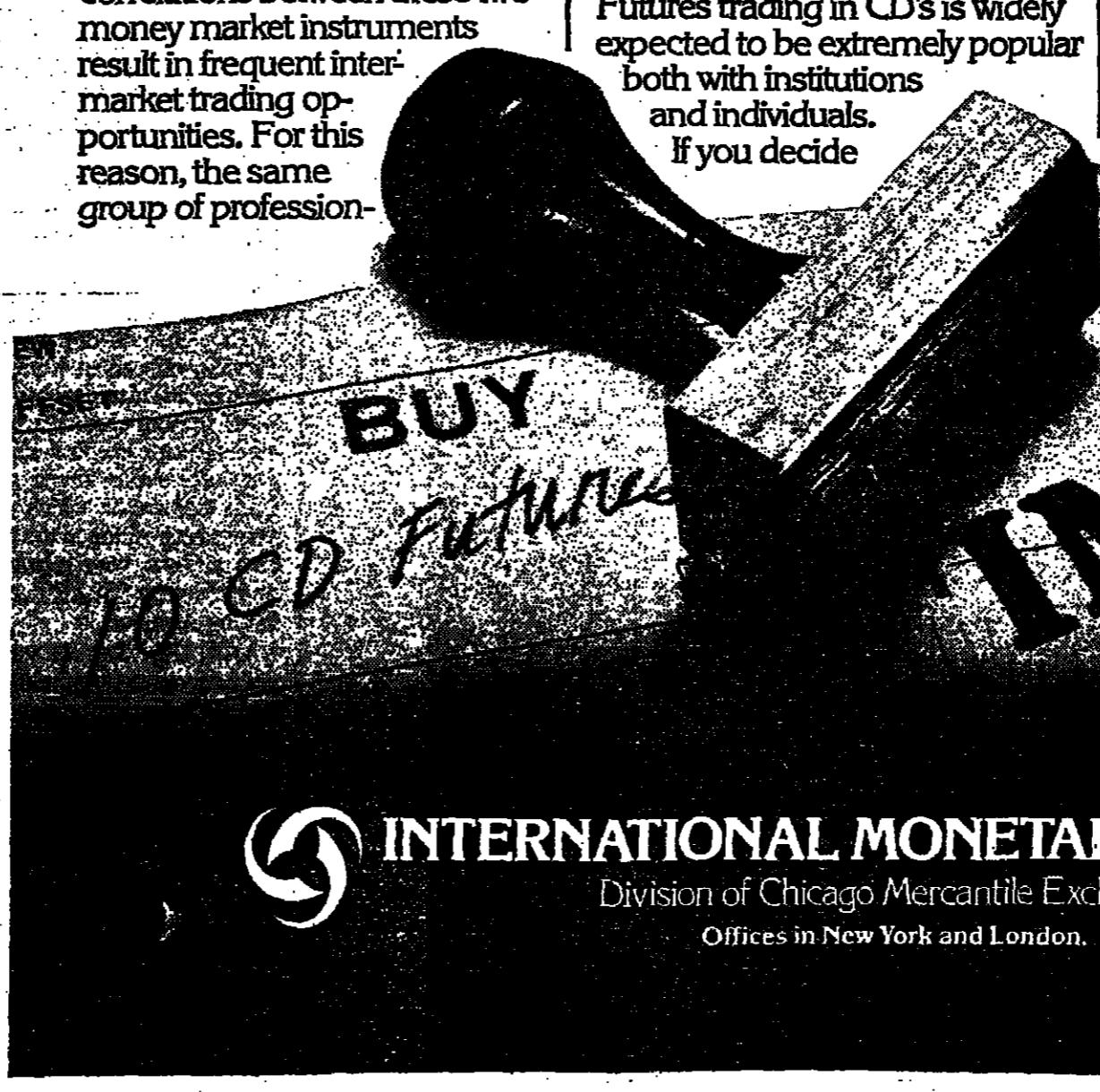
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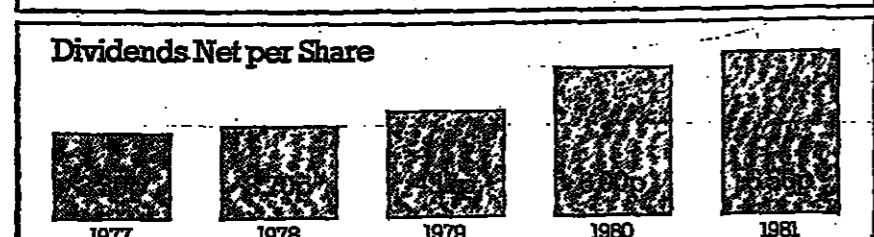
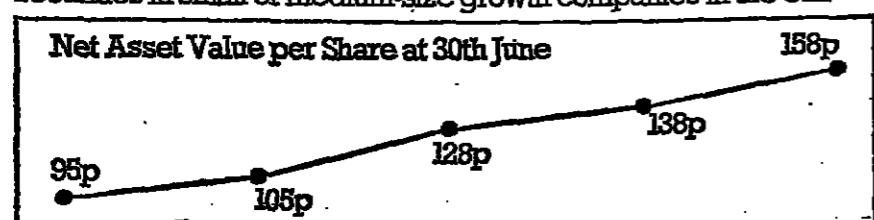
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1980 includes 0.5p special non-recurring dividend.

Total assets at 30th June 1981: £16,852,776

For a copy of the Annual Report, contact the Secretary, Robert Fleming Services Ltd., P&O Building, 122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4QR.

COMPANY NEWS APPPOINTMENTS

REPORTS TO MEETINGS

Nesco members told of developments

MR TREVOR TREGARNE, the chairman of Nesco Investments, told members at yesterday's AGM of four developments which had occurred since the preparation of his statement included in the annual report.

First, he said, dividends amounting to approximately £171,000 from the Nigerian subsidiary in respect of last year had been received in London.

Second, he revealed that the group had increased its shareholding in Brithwaite and Co. Engineers to 137,500 shares (5.09 per cent).

The third change, he said, was that the motor distribution subsidiary, Colmore, had disposed of Archie T. Moss, a garage business in Loughborough, for approximately £155,000, including repayment of inter-group debt.

The fourth development was that director Mr N. J. Ferguson had given notice of his intention to resign from the company at the end of September. He planned to devote his time and efforts entirely to his professional accounting practice, the chairman explained.

Mr Ferguson had served as secretary to the company for more than 17 years and had been elected to the board in November 1975.

Prospects about trading and profits for the current year were outlined by chairman at other annual meetings.

At Alexander Russell, the fuel and building supplies distributor, quarrying and quarry management, and coal recovery group, Mr S. R. Nicholson said results to date were ahead of last year although he warned that business in Scotland had not shown the revival he had been looking for in the intervening period as the group was now, for the first time, really beginning to suffer from the inroads that timber-frame housing was making into the ordinary house market.

The chairman expected further curtailment of production at the Gartshore works if there were no immediate signs of an upturn. However, he still expected the group to be showing an improvement in its results for the first half, compared with last year, but "perhaps not to the extent the company might have hoped for at the beginning of the summer."

With regard to the second half Mr Nicholson said that building material activities should show an overall improvement, compared with the same period last year, given reasonable weather. He pointed out that coal plants

were now well run in and with initial teething problems ironed out this division should show an improved performance this winter.

The group, he said, was negotiating one or two contracts for coal plants in the UK and had agreed to take a third stake in a consortium in the US to work a coal recovery deposit in Pennsylvania.

At the Wolverhampton Steam Laundry Mr John Nash, the chairman, stated that sales, margins and profits for the first four months of the current year showed a marked improvement over last year and that the current prospects for the company were most encouraging.

Mr Derrick Cowan told Cowan de Groot shareholders that trading conditions continued to be difficult and vigorous measures had been taken to restore profitability to those areas of the group which were suffering. These measures, however, take time to become effective, he added.

He said the directors were hopeful of producing a reasonable result for the year, although the profit for the two half periods would be more evenly balanced than they were last year.

Mr S. V. Weber intimated in his review that Aere Needles Group had incurred a loss in the first half. After the meeting he said he did not expect the loss to exceed £165,000. Indications at this stage were that the rate of loss had substantially reduced, he added.

He pointed out that the final four months of the year encompass the group's most important selling season and that the outcome for the full year would therefore depend on the demand and the group's ability to meet it during the four months.

At C. H. Industries' meeting Mr Tim Heerley told shareholders that there was little he could add to his statement within the report and accounts.

He said there were a number of areas within the group's businesses where new commercial opportunities were being developed which should produce significant returns in the future.

Although the level of profitability remained unsatisfactory, he pointed out that the necessary influences on the group appear to have levelled out and that the outcome for the current year would be particularly dependent on the timing of any upturn in demand and on future acquisitions.

Managing director of Ingersoll

Mr Jeffrey Cohen, 35, currently managing director of Heron Service Stations and Heron Credit Card has also been appointed group managing director of INGERSOLL. He was aftermarket manager, Shell UK, prior to joining Heron as managing director of Heron Service Stations in August 1979.

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS has appointed Mr John Hayles to the board. He is BNFL's director of finance, based at Risley, near Warrington, Cheshire.

Admiral Sir Ian McKaig has been appointed an executive director of INCHCAPE.

Mr Douglas Lang has been appointed managing director of CARDINAL MATRIX BROACHES, a company recently acquired by the Brooke Bond Engineering Group from Tube Investments.

Mr A. H. Button has been appointed sole managing director of WATNEY'S LONDON. He was formerly joint managing director. The company's other joint managing director, Mr M. J. Ketell, has been appointed to the board of sister company, Charr and Brewer.

Mr T. V. McGhie has been appointed technical director of DORMAN SMITH FUSES following the retirement of Mr Fred Bentley. Dorman Smith is a member of the BICC Group.

Mr Richard Thayer has been appointed a director of CENTURY ALUMINIUM following his retirement from the Michel Bank. Mr Malcolm Bowes has been appointed alternate production director of Century Aluminium and director of Century Anodising.

Mr Chris Meadows Smith has been appointed managing director of FERTITRADING, an associated company of I. and K. Fertilisers. He succeeds Mr D. A. P. Pusey who is returning to Chemische Werke Hüls A G through affiliate Ruhrt Stickstoff.

Mr C. H. Industries' meeting Mr Allard Jiskoot (Dutch), Mr Montagna and Mr Charles Wilson have been appointed to the board of RIT.

Mr Donald Campbell who retired recently from the Taylor Bonney division of Gulf and

Western has been appointed a director of MOSSWOOD SERVICES. MARIA SpA, a Rome-based finance company wholly-owned by Bankers Trust Company of New York, Mr Dubini succeeds Mr Abel Herrero-Duclous who has been assigned to Bankers Trust International, London.

ARBUTHNOT INSURANCE SERVICES has appointed Mr D. G. W. Guyer as a director.

Mr Edward A. Freichel has been elected a vice-president of CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY of Chicago.

LIGHTNING MIXERS LIMITED has appointed Mr. D. E. Lewis as chairman and managing director. Mr Lewis is also appointed to the boards of the company's subsidiaries: Europe: Lightning GmbH, Lightning Belgium SA, Lightning Ltd. and Lightning Mixers Limited. Lightning Mixers Limited is a subsidiary of the General Signal Corporation of Stamford, U.S.

Mr L. V. McGuire has been appointed general manager for HAMILTON BROTHERS OIL AND GAS in Aberdeen. He will have responsibility for North Sea drilling, engineering production and marine operations.

Mr Timothy Cates has been appointed to the board of HEALTH AND DIET FOOD COMPANY group with special responsibilities for contractual and general legal matters.

SKANDIA LIFE INSURANCE has appointed Mr. Alan Wilson as legal director. He will remain company secretary.

Mr G. F. Drake, Mr. A. McGowan and Mr. M. Sutton have been made directors of WILLIAMS'S LIMITED of Bootle, a subsidiary of Squirrel Horn.

Mr Michael Caferty has been appointed technical director of GEO. BRAY AND CO, Leeds-based manufacturer of gas jets and burners.

Mr Andrew Nicholas Ferrer and Mr. Kenneth Lewis MacDonald have been appointed directors of TRANSPARENT PAPER.

Mr Peter L. Barth has been appointed as vice-president/managing director, Europe, Middle East and Africa for FISHER CONTROLS INTERNATIONAL INC. Mr. Barth, formerly with Kimberly Clark Corporation and Kempscott Corporation, is based in Basingstoke.

The WILLIAMS LEA GROUP has appointed Mr. Terry Green, managing director of Peruvian colour print, Southend. He succeeds Mr. Fred Walls who retires at the end of September.

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With DebitKey, we can help reconcile your accounts by providing a list of transactions (cheques, money transfers, remittances and LCs) sorted by your own system of reference numbers. We have also introduced TeleDraft, a telex initiated collection draft for the international banking market.

Beyond that we offer an automated Letter of Credit system that is one of the most sophisticated available and NoteLine, a computer based system for processing

commercial paper that saves our customers money by eliminating wasted time and potential for errors. And these are only a sample of the products we offer to help you provide better service to your customers.

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Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United
Kingdom, Venezuela, West Germany, Yugoslavia

This Prospectus includes information given in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange in London for the purpose of giving information to the public with regard to the United Mexican States ("Mexico") and the Stock, Mexico has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no other material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or of opinion. Mexico accepts responsibility accordingly.

Dated 14th September, 1981



UNITED MEXICAN STATES

ISSUE ON A YIELD BASIS OF £50,000,000 LOAN STOCK 2008

Redeemable Annually at Stockholders' Option from 1988 to 2007

Payable as to £30 per cent. on application
and as to the balance by 17th November, 1981
with interest payable semi-annually on 1st March and 1st September.

The Issue has been underwritten by

County Bank Limited

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited
Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited
J. Henry Schroder Wag & Co. Limited

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("The Stock Exchange") for the £50,000,000 Loan Stock 2008 (the "Stock") to be admitted to the Official List for quotation in the Gilt-edged market. The Stock will be available either in registered form, transferable in amounts and multiples of one penny, or, at the option of the holder, in bearer form, represented by Bearer Bonds which will be available in denominations of £1,000 and £10,000 only. Stock in registered form may be exchanged for Bearer Bonds and vice versa at any time after 15th December, 1981. Renounceable allotment letters (partly paid) in respect of the Stock will be despatched on Wednesday, 23rd September, 1981. Certificates in respect of Stock in registered form and Bearer Bonds in respect of Stock in bearer form will be available on 15th December, 1981 provided the balance of the monies payable has been duly paid.

The application list will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 17th September, 1981 and will close later the same day.

No person has been authorised to give any information or make any representation in connection with the issue of the Stock other than those contained in this Prospectus and, if given or made, any such information or representation should not be relied upon as having been authorised by the Underwriters referred to above (the "Underwriters") or Mexico.

The Stock is not open for applications to subscribe by U.S. or Mexican persons. "U.S. person" means any person who is a national, citizen or resident of, or who is normally resident in, the United States, including the estate of any such person; corporations and partnerships created or organised in the United States and "United States" means the United States of America, its territories and possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction. "Mexican person" means any person who is a national or resident in the United Mexican States.

All references to "pounds", "pounds sterling", "£" and "pence" in this Prospectus are to pounds and pence of the United Kingdom. All references to "pesos" and "P" are to Mexican Pesos. On 10th September, 1981 the exchange rate between the pound sterling and the Mexican peso was approximately £1=P44.85. All currencies have been converted into pounds sterling at the rates prevailing on the relevant dates.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

All applications must be made in the form of the Application Form provided or in such other form as County Bank Limited ("County Bank") may accept and must be lodged with National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD, not later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 17th September, 1981 and must comply with the provisions of "Terms of Payment in Respect of Applications" below.

Applications for Stock must be for a minimum of £100 nominal amount of Stock and thereafter for the following multiples of Stock:

Amount of Stock applied for	Multiple
Up to £1,000	£100
£1,000 to £10,000	£1,000
£10,000 to £50,000	£5,000
£50,000 or greater	£25,000

County Bank on behalf of Mexico reserves the right to reject any application and to accept any application in part only. If any application is not accepted the amount paid on application will be returned by post at the risk of the person submitting the application. If any application is accepted for a smaller amount of Stock than that applied for, the balance of the amount paid on application will be so returned, and in the meantime all such amounts will be held in a separate account.

County Bank on behalf of Mexico will publish the basis of allotment in the Financial Times on Friday, 18th September, 1981. It is expected that letters confirming allotments will be despatched not later than Friday, 18th September, 1981.

Brokerage of 1/4 per cent. of the nominal amount of Stock allotted will be paid by Mexico to recognised Banks or Stockbrokers on allotments made in respect of Application Forms bearing their stamp or in respect of other forms of application accepted by County Bank as being from a recognised Bank or Stockbroker. The expression "recognised Bank or Stockbroker" shall mean any organisation which is a recognised Bank for the purposes of the Banking Act 1979 and any firm of Stockbrokers which is a member of The Stock Exchange and such other banks or brokers as County Bank shall at its absolute discretion agree for the purposes of the issue.

Acceptances of applications will be conditional inter alia upon the Council of The Stock Exchange admitting the Stock to the Official List on or before 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 23rd September, 1981. If the Underwriters exercise their right to terminate the Underwriting Agreement referred to below or if the Underwriting Agreement does not become unconditional (see "Underwriting Arrangements" below), such acceptances will become void.

Copies of this Prospectus may be obtained from:

County Bank Limited,
11 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1BS
National Westminster Bank Limited
New Issues Department, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London
EC2P 2BD
208 Piccadilly, London W1A 2DG
80 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2DZ
14 Blythswood Square, Glasgow G2 4AQ
Colmore Centre, 103 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3NS
55 King Street, Manchester M60 2DB
32 Corn Street, Bristol BS19 7UG
W. Greenwell & Co.
Bow Bells House, Broad Street, London EC2M 9EL
The Stock Exchange in London
Rowe & Pitman
City Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1UA
The Stock Exchange in London

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ISSUE

Determination of Rate of Interest and Issue Price

The Stock will have attached such rate of interest and be issued at such price as will result in the Stock having a Gross Redemption Yield determined on the basis described below (the "Issue Yield").

The Issue Yield shall mean the sum of 1.50 per cent. and the Gross Redemption Yield, rounded up to two decimal places, on 13 1/2 per cent. Treasury Stock 2004-08 calculated by reference to the price of such Treasury Stock on The Stock Exchange at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 16th September, 1981, such price to be determined by County Bank to be the arithmetic mean of the bid and offered prices quoted on a dealing basis for settlement on the following business day by three jobbers in the Gilt-edged market. The Gross Redemption Yield will be expressed as a percentage and will be calculated on the basis set out under "Calculation of Gross Redemption Yields" below.

The rate of interest attaching to the Stock will be an integral multiple of one quarter of one per cent. and will be as high as possible consistent with an issue price as near as possible to but not less than 96 per cent. The issue price will be expressed as a percentage rounded down to three places of decimals.

It is intended that notice of the Issue Yield, rate of interest and issue price will be published in the Financial Times on Thursday, 17th September, 1981.

Underwriting Arrangements

By an Underwriting Agreement dated 14th September, 1981, County Bank Limited, Baring Brothers & Co. Limited, Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited, Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, J. Henry Schroder Wag & Co. Limited and S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. have agreed with Mexico to underwrite the issue of the Stock.

SUMMARY INFORMATION

The Issue

Securities	£50,000,000 Loan Stock 2008.
Payment	The Stock will be payable as to £30% on application and as to the balance by 17th November, 1981.
Interest	Payable semi-annually on 1st March and 1st September.
Redemption by Stockholders	The Stock may be redeemed at the option of the Stockholders on the Interest Payment Date falling in September in the years 1988-2007 inclusive.
Final Maturity	1st September, 2008.

UNITED MEXICAN STATES

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Gross Domestic Product (millions of pesos) (1)	1,228,000	1,674,700	2,122,800	2,767,000	—	—
Gross Fixed Investment (millions of pesos) (1)	267,600	339,100	476,100	698,100	—	—
National Consumer Price Index (annual increase %) (2)	27.2%	20.7%	16.2%	20.0%	29.8%	26.7%
Petroleum Production						
Crude Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids (Barrels per day) (3)	876,587	1,085,550	1,329,579	1,618,001	2,129,465	—
Natural Gas (000 cubic feet per day) (4)	2,108,600	2,046,200	2,561,400	2,916,600	3,548,000	—
Petroleum Reserves (millions of barrels) (5)						
Crude Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (6)	7,278	10,427	28,402	33,560	47,224	NA
Natural Gas (crude oil equivalent) (7)	3,882	5,574	11,791	12,343	13,902	NA
Total (8)	11,160	16,001	40,193	45,803	60,126	72,000
Petroleum Exports (millions of pounds) (9)	256.4	530.6	899.5	1,796.5	4,350.4	—
Public Finance (billions of pesos) (10)	335.7	483.8	632.8	868.4	1,217.6	1,634.3
Total Revenues (11)	473.9	612.7	752.2	1,047.8	1,439.1	2,018.3
Deficit to be Financed (12)	(138.2)	(128.9)	(119.4)	(179.4)	(181.8)	(297.9)
Exports (t.o.b.) (millions of pounds) (13)	1,949.3	2,301.3	2,968.5	3,964.9	6,402.1	—
Imports (millions of pounds) (14)	3,514.7	3,057.6	5,876.4	5,401.4	7,767.5	—
Balance of Trade (millions of pounds) (15)	(1,595.4)	(766.3)	(987.9)	(1,436.5)	(1,365.4)	—
Total International Reserves (millions of pounds) (16)	1,384.9	1,682.7	2,097.0	2,579.0	3,030.4	5,690.5
External Public debt (millions of pounds) (17)						
Short-Term (18)	2,150.3	1,427.7	609.3	646.7	666.4	1,454.7
Long-Term (19)	9,311.7	10,568.1	12,329.0	12,697.3	14,445.6	14,664.1
Total (20)	11,462.0	11,995.8	12,938.2	13,344.0	15,112.0	16,118.8
Notes:						
(1) Current price.						
(2) Preliminary.						
(3) Reflects revaluation increase from April 1980 to April 1981.						
(4) At 1st September, 1981.						
(5) Before the price control 31st December, 1977 and are f.o.b. for years 1975, 1979 and 1980.						
(6) Imports are c.i.f. for years 1976 and 1977 and are f.o.b. for years 1975, 1979 and 1980.						
(7) Includes amounts attributable to border trade, exports of silver and operations of in-bond activities.						
(8) Includes gold, silver, special drawing rights, foreign exchange holdings, and credit available from international financial institutions and commercial banks.						
(9) At the August, 1981.						
(10) At the March, 1981.						

The above summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the detailed information and financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Prospectus.

County Bank on behalf of the Underwriters may in certain circumstances terminate the Underwriting Agreement, which is subject to certain conditions, and accordingly, if the Underwriting Agreement is so terminated or does not become unconditional, applications for the Stock will become void.

Terms of Payment in Respect of Applications

Each application, unless made by a recognised Bank or Stockbroker taking advantage

of the alternative method of payment described below, must be accompanied by a cheque made payable to National Westminster Bank Limited, and crossed "Mexico Loan", representing payment at the rate of £30 per cent. of the nominal amount of the Stock applied for. Such cheques must be drawn on a branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man or a bank which is either a member of the London or Scottish Clearing Houses or which has arranged for its cheques to be cleared through the facilities provided for the members of those Clearing Houses.

County Bank on behalf of the Underwriters reserves the right to retain the relevant allotment letters and surplus application monies (if any) pending clearance of applicants' remittances.

An alternative method of payment is available only in respect of payments of £10,000 or more to recognised Banks or Stockbrokers who irrevocably agree to pay National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD, for credit to the account designated "Mexico Loan" by 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 23rd September, 1981 the amount in Town Clearing Funds representing payment at the rate of 30 per cent. of the nominal amount of the Stock in respect of which their applications shall have been accepted. The expression "Town Clearing Funds" shall mean a cheque or bankers' payment for £10,000 or more drawn on a Town Clearing Branch of a bank in the City of London.

The balance of the amount payable on the Stock allotted must be paid so as to be cleared on or before 17th November, 1981. Any amount paid in advance of its due date shall not bear interest or be entitled to any other payment.

Failure to pay the balance on any Stock when due will render all amounts previously paid liable to forfeiture and the allotment liable to cancellation. Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. above the Base Rate of National Westminster Bank Limited from time to time may be charged on such balance if accepted after its due date. Mexico reserves the right in default of payment to sell such Stock fully paid for its own account.

Delivery

Renounceable allotment letters (partly paid) in respect of Stock allotted will be des

UNITED MEXICAN STATES continued

PARTICULARS OF THE LOAN STOCK

The £50,000,000 Loan Stock 2008 (the "Stock") of the United Mexican States ("Mexico") was authorised by Directive Number 4/25 dated 25th March, 1981 of the President of Mexico and will be issued pursuant to a Deed Poll (the "Deed Poll") to be entered into by Mexico. The following is a summary of, and is subject to, the detailed provisions of the Deed Poll, copies of which will be available for inspection at the specified offices of the Registrar and the Principal Paying Agent referred to below.

1. Status
The Stock will represent a direct, unconditional, general and (subject to the provisions below) unsecured obligation of Mexico and will rank at least *pari passu* with all other outstanding unsecured External Indebtedness (as hereinafter defined) of Mexico, present and future.

2. Negative Pledge

Mexico will undertake that it will not at any time while any part of the Stock is outstanding secure or permit to be secured any External Indebtedness of Mexico or any guarantee of any External Indebtedness of any other person by any mortgage, lien, pledge or other charge upon any of its present or future assets or revenues, without at the same time according to the Stock the same security or such other security as may be approved by an Extraordinary Resolution of the holders of the Stock (the "Stockholders"). External Indebtedness means all indebtedness which is expressed in, or capable of being discharged by payment of, a currency other than the national currency of Mexico and which is payable to a non-resident of Mexico.

3. Interest

The Stock will bear interest from 23rd September, 1981 at a rate per annum to be determined in accordance with "Determination of Rate of Interest and Issue Price" above. Interest will be payable by equal half-yearly instalments on 1st March and 1st September ("Interest Payment Dates") in each year except that the first payment of interest in respect of the period from 23rd September, 1981 will be calculated on the amount for the time being paid up on the Stock and on the basis of the number of days elapsed and a 365 day year.

4. Form

The Stock will be issued in registered form (hereinafter referred to as "Registered Stock") or, at the option of the holder, in bearer form (hereinafter referred to as "Bearer Stock"). Subject as hereinafter provided, Registered Stock may be exchanged in nominal amounts of £1,000 or integral multiples thereof for Bearer Stock and Bearer Stock may be exchanged for Registered Stock. Bearer Stock will be represented by bearer bonds which will be available in denominations of £1,000 and £10,000 each (the "Bearer Bonds") and on issue interest coupons ("Coupons") will be attached to each Bearer Bond, provided that, in the case of a Bearer Bond issued pursuant to an application received between the day following a Record Date (as hereinafter defined) and the immediately succeeding Interest Payment Date (inclusive), no Coupon will be attached in respect of that immediately succeeding Interest Payment Date.

Applications for Bearer Stock made on or before 1st December, 1981 must be made in accordance with the instructions contained in the allotment letter which will be despatched to persons to whom Stock is allotted (see "Delivery" above). On or after 15th December, 1981, applications for such exchange shall be made on the Forms of Exchange available at the specified offices of any of the Registrar, the Principal Paying and Exchange Agent and the Paying Agents referred to below and shall be made by the registered holders of Registered Stock or the holders of Bearer Bonds, as the case may be, lodging such forms duly completed at the specified office of the Exchange Agent. If any such application is lodged on or before 28th February, 1982, no charge will be made in respect of such exchange. After that date, such exchange will only be made on payment of such costs and expenses as may be incurred in connection therewith.

An application to exchange Registered Stock for Bearer Bonds shall have attached thereto the Stock Certificate(s) to which such application relates. An application to exchange Bearer Bonds for Registered Stock shall have attached thereto the Bearer Bond(s) to which such application relates together with all unmatured Coupons pertaining thereto. Failing presentation of all unmatured Coupons pertaining to any Bearer Bond, no exchange shall be made in respect thereof. In the case of an application received during the period commencing on the day following a Record Date and expiring on the day before the next Interest Payment Date, a Coupon falling due for payment on such Interest Payment Date shall, for the purposes of this paragraph be deemed to have matured. If the Stock Certificate(s) attached to an application for the exchange of Registered Stock for Bearer Bonds relate(s) to a greater nominal amount of Stock which is not an integral multiple of £1,000 the balance of such Stock will remain in registered form and a Stock Certificate will be issued to the holder in respect thereof. All applications for the exchange of Registered Stock for Bearer Bonds and vice versa will be irrevocable. The exchange shall take effect on receipt by the Exchange Agent of a duly completed Form of Exchange.

The initial Principal Paying Agent and the initial Exchange Agent will be National Westminster Bank Limited and its specified office is PO Box No. 297, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2ES. The initial Registrar will be National Westminster Bank Limited, Registrar's Department, PO Box 82, 37 Broad Street, Bristol BS9 7NH. Mexico reserves the right to terminate the appointment of the Principal Paying Agent, the Exchange Agent and the Registrar provided that no such termination shall take effect until a further principal paying agent or exchange agent having a specified office in London or a further registrar, as the case may be, has been appointed and notice of such appointment has been given to holders of Stock in accordance with "Notices" below.

Bearer Bonds issued in exchange for Registered Stock will be available for delivery at the specified office of the Exchange Agent, and Stock Certificates in respect of Registered Stock issued in exchange for Bearer Bonds will be despatched, in each case, as soon as practicable and in any event within three days of receipt of the relevant Form of Exchange duly completed, in accordance with the instructions contained therein.

5. Redemption and Purchase

(a) Unless previously redeemed or purchased and cancelled, the Stock will be redeemed at par on 1st September, 2008.

(b) Mexico will, at the option of any Stockholder, redeem on the Interest Payment Date falling in September in the years 1988 to 2007 inclusive, any Stock at par. To exercise the redemption option a Stockholder must lodge with the Registrar or any Paying Agent not less than 45 days not more than 60 days prior to such Interest Payment Date an application for redemption (in a form to be supplied by the Registrar or any Paying Agent) duly completed, together with the Certificate in respect of the Registered Stock or the Bearer Bonds (together with all unmatured Coupons pertaining thereto) in respect of which such option is to be exercised. Any such application for redemption will be irrevocable and any Certificates or Bearer Bonds so deposited may not be withdrawn.

(c) Mexico may at any time purchase Stock either on The Stock Exchange or on any other recognised securities market or by tender (available to all Stockholders alike) at any price or by private treaty at a price (exclusive of accrued interest and all costs of purchase) not exceeding 110 per cent of the middle market quotation for the Stock based on the Daily Official List of The Stock Exchange ruling on the previous dealing day, but not otherwise.

(d) All Stock redeemed or purchased as aforesaid shall be cancelled and will not be available for re-issue.

6. Payments

In the case of Registered Stock, payments of principal and interest will be made in pounds sterling by warrant drawn on a Town Clearing Branch of a bank in the City of London, which will be sent at the holders' risk by post to persons who are registered as holders of Stock at the close of business on the relevant Record Date or to their nominated agents and made payable to such holders or as they may direct. In the case of joint holders, the warrant will be sent to the first-named unless instructions to the contrary are given in writing. The "Record Date" shall mean the thirtieth day before an Interest Payment Date but should such thirtieth day fall on a day on which the specified office of the Registrar is not open for business then the Record Date shall mean the first day thereafter on which such specified office is open for business.

In the case of Bearer Stock, payments of principal will only be made against surrender of the Bearer Bonds and payments of interest will only be made against surrender of Coupons at the specified office of the Paying Agent in London in pounds sterling or, at the option of the bearer, at the specified office of any Paying Agent, by a cheque in pounds sterling drawn on, or by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank in London, subject in each case to any laws or regulations applicable thereto.

If the due date for payment of any amount of principal or interest in respect of any Bearer Bond or Coupon is not a business day then the holder thereof shall not be entitled to payment of such amount until the next following business day and shall not be entitled to any further interest or other payment in respect of any such delay. In this paragraph "Payments", the expression "business day" means any day on which banks are open for business in the place where the specified office of the Paying Agent at which the Bearer Bond or Coupon is presented for payment is situated and (in the case of payment by transfer to an account maintained by the payee in London as referred to above) on which dealings in pounds sterling may be carried on both in London and in such place.

The initial Paying Agents and their specified offices are listed below. Mexico will at all times maintain a Paying Agent in London and in at least one country in Europe other than the United Kingdom. Holders of Stock will be notified in accordance with "Notices" below of the replacement of any Paying Agent, a change in its specified office or the appointment of additional paying agent(s).

7. Taxation

All payments of principal and interest will be made without deduction for or on account of any present or future taxes or duties of whatsoever nature now or hereafter imposed or levied by Mexico or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein or any federation or organisation of which Mexico is at the time of payment a member, unless Mexico is compelled by law to make payment subject to deduction for or on account of any such tax or duty.

In that event, Mexico shall pay such additional amounts of or in respect of principal or interest as may be necessary to ensure that the net amounts receivable after such deduction shall equal the respective amounts of principal and interest which would have been receivable in the absence of such deduction, provided that no such additional amount shall be payable with respect to any Stock the holder of which is liable to such taxes or duties by reason of his having some connection with Mexico other than the mere holding of Stock. References herein to principal and interest shall be deemed also to refer to any additional amounts which may be payable under this paragraph "Taxation".

8. Events of Default

Upon the happening of any of the following events, the holder of any Stock may give notice to Mexico that the Stock registered in his name is immediately repayable and such Stock shall become repayable according to together in any such case with interest accrued to the date of repayment:-

(i) default for more than 30 days in the payment of principal or interest in respect of the Stock or any part of it; or

(ii) default in the performance of any other obligation of Mexico in respect of the Stock which shall continue for more than 30 days after written notice requiring such default to be remedied shall have been given to Mexico by any of the Stockholders; or

(iii) Mexico becomes bound to repay prematurely the whole or a substantial part of any other issue of stock, debentures, bonds, notes or similar securities which are denominated or payable or optionally payable in a currency other than the national currency of Mexico and which are or are intended to be listed or dealt in on any recognised stock exchange or over-the-counter market (whether initially issued by means of a public offer or private placement) by reason of a default by Mexico in its obligations in respect of the same, or fails to repay the principal amount of any such issue upon the maturity thereof or to pay when due any guarantee or indemnity in respect of the principal amount of any such issue (and such failure shall continue beyond any applicable grace period).

9. Prescription

Stockholders will cease to be entitled to amounts due in respect of principal and interest which remain unclaimed for a period of 10 years from the date on which the relevant payment first becomes due.

10. Title to Bearer Bonds and Coupons

Mexico and any Paying Agent may treat the holder of any Bearer Bond or Coupon as the absolute owner thereof (whether or not such Bearer Bond or such Coupon shall be sold and notwithstanding any notice to the contrary or writing thereon) for the purposes of receiving payment and for all other purposes.

11. Notices

All notices shall be valid if despatched by post to the Stockholders at their registered addresses (in the case of joint holders to the address of the holder whose name stands first in the Register) and if published in one leading daily newspaper printed in the English language and with general circulation in London, or, if this is not practicable, in a newspaper having general circulation in Europe. It is expected, however, that publication of such notices will normally be made in the Financial Times. Any such notice shall be deemed to have been given on the later of the day following the date of such despatch and the date of such first publication.

12. Transfer

The Registered Stock will be registered and transferable in amounts and integral multiples of one penny and will be transferable by instrument in writing in the same manner as if the Stock were a security to which Section 1 of the Stock Transfer Act 1965 and the Stock Exchange (Completion of Bargains) Act 1976 applied. The Bearer Bonds will be transferable by delivery.

13. Modification of Rights

The conditions pertaining to the Stock and the provisions of the Deed Poll and the rights of the Stockholders will be subject to modification by Extraordinary Resolution of the Stockholders as provided in the Deed Poll.

14. Replacement of Stock Certificates, Bearer Bonds and Coupons

Should any Stock Certificate, Bearer Bond or unmatured Coupon be lost, stolen, mutilated, defaced or destroyed it may be replaced at the specified offices of either the Principal Paying Agent or the Registrar, upon payment by the claimant of the expenses incurred in connection therewith and on such terms as to evidence and indemnity as Mexico and the Principal Paying Agent or the Registrar (as the case may be) may reasonably require. Mutilated or defaced Stock Certificates must be surrendered before replacements will be issued.

15. Governing Law

The conditions pertaining to the Stock and the provisions of the Deed Poll will be governed by and construed in accordance with English law. Mexico will submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts for all purposes in connection with the Stock and will irrevocably appoint the Consul General of Mexico in London to accept service of any proceedings on its behalf. Mexico will irrevocably consent to the fullest extent permitted by law to the giving of any relief including, without limitation, the making, enforcement or execution against any property of any order or judgement made or given in connection with any such proceedings.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds of the issue of the Stock will be utilised towards the economic development of Mexico.

STOCK EXCHANGE DEALING

The Stock in both registered and bearer forms will be dealt in on The Stock Exchange in London in the Gilt-edged market as a long-dated stock. It is expected that dealings on The Stock Exchange will begin on Friday, 18th September, 1981. Dealings from that date until and including Wednesday, 23rd September, 1981 will be for deferred settlement on Thursday, 24th September, 1981. Thereafter, the Stock will normally be traded for settlement and delivery on the working day after the date of the transaction. The price of the Stock will be quoted inclusive of accrued interest.

UNITED KINGDOM TAXATION

In the case of interest payable in respect of Registered Stock through a registrar in the United Kingdom, United Kingdom income tax will be deducted from each payment except that: (i) under current Inland Revenue practice, payments will be made gross to holders whose specified addresses are outside the United Kingdom provided that the payments are made direct to an address abroad other than a branch of a United Kingdom bank; and (ii) holders who are not resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes may apply by sending a claim form A3 to the Inspector of Foreign Dividends for exemption from United Kingdom income tax on grounds of non-residence.

In the case of interest payable in respect of Bearer Stock through a paying agent in the United Kingdom, United Kingdom income tax will be deducted from each payment in the absence of an affidavit to the effect that the beneficial owner of the Stock is not resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes.

Under current Inland Revenue practice, a bank in the United Kingdom recognised as such by the Inland Revenue may receive interest payments (whether in respect of Registered Stock or Bearer Stock) without deduction of tax if it certifies on the occasion of each such payment that it owns the underlying Stock and is beneficially entitled to the interest.

Stockholders who are liable to United Kingdom tax on capital gains should note that the provision in section 67 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 which exempts from tax capital gains on Gilt-edged securities (as defined for such purposes) held for more than 12 months will not apply to the Stock.

UNITED MEXICAN STATES

Area and Population

The United Mexican States is a nation comprised of 31 states and the Federal District, which contains Mexico City, the nation's capital. Mexico is the third largest nation in Latin America, consisting of 761,895 square miles. The country shares borders with the United States to the north and Guatemala and Belize to the south, and has long coastlines with ports on both the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean.

Mexico is the second most populous nation in Latin America, with a population of 67.4 million as of 4 June, 1980. Mexico's three largest cities are Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey, with estimated populations at 30 June, 1979 of 14.8 million, 2.5 million and 2.0 million, respectively. Improved economic and social conditions and better medical care have greatly increased the average life expectancy and have decreased the infant mortality rate by nearly two-thirds over the last four decades. This in turn has resulted in an average annual rate of population growth of 3.4% in the last ten years, but declining birth rates in urban areas, where approximately 63% of the population lives, and among women under 35 are expected to result in a moderation of the rate of increase during the 1980s. During 1980 the population grew at an annual rate of 2.7%. Government efforts are being focused on family planning and on encouraging broader distribution of the population within the country.

Form of Government and Political Parties

The present form of government was established by the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, which took effect on 1 May, 1917 and reflects the objectives of the Revolution of 1910. The Constitution establishes Mexico as a federated republic and vests in the Federal Government responsibility for most important governmental functions other than those of a primarily local or regional nature.

The Constitution divides Federal power among the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The President and the Congress are elected by popular vote of all Mexicans over 18 years of age.

Executive authority is vested in the President, who is elected for a six year term by direct popular vote. The current President of Mexico is Jose Lopez Portillo, whose term expires on 1 December, 1982. The Constitution provides that the President may serve only one term and can never be re-elected. The executive branch also consists of Secretaries, Department Heads, the Attorney General and the Attorney General for Consumer Affairs, all of whom are appointed by the President.

Legislative power is vested in a bicameral Congress composed of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Senators serve a six year term. Deputies serve a three year term, and neither may serve consecutive terms. The Senate is composed of two Senators from each state and two from the Federal District. The Chamber of Deputies is composed of up to 400 Deputies, of whom 300 are elected from the various electoral districts, and up to 100 of whom are appointed according to the share of the vote received by each minority party. The Constitution provides procedures for the President to veto bills and for Congress to override such veto.

The Partido Revolucionario Institucional ("PRI") is the dominant political party in Mexico and has held a majority in Congress and won all presidential elections since 1929.

The PRI holds 63 of the 94 seats in the Senate and 260 of the 300 electoral district seats in the Chamber of Deputies. There are six other political parties which hold seats in the Chamber of Deputies. The number of seats each holds is as follows: Partido de Accion Nacional (43), the Partido Popular Socialista (11), the Partido Autentico de la Revolucion Mexicana (12), the Partido Comunista Mexicano (18), the Partido Democratico Mexicano (10) and the Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores (10).

Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court of Justice, circuit courts, district courts and other courts. The Supreme Court has 21 members who are appointed for life by the President and ratified by the Senate.

External Affairs and International Organisations

Mexico has diplomatic relations with 135 countries throughout the world. It is a charter member of the United Nations and is a founding member of the Organisation of American States ("OAS"), the International Monetary Fund ("IMF"), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("World Bank") and the Inter-American Development Bank ("IDB"). Mexico is a member of the Inter-American Committee for the Reform of the International Monetary System and a member of the Development Committee of the IMF and the World Bank.

Mexico was a party to the Conference of Montevideo in 1930 which established a regional trade organisation called the Latin American Free Trade Association ("LAFTA"), whose function was taken over in 1950 by the Latin American Integration Association ("LAIA"). Mexico and most other member nations of the OAS were parties to the Act of Bogota in 1940 and the Charter of Punta del Este in 1961, under which the Latin American nations and the United States adopted the principles known as the Alliance for Progress.

Mexico is a member of the Latin-American Economic System ("SELA") which was formed in 1975 with the participation of 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The member nations of SELA agreed to establish a permanent system to coordinate external economic policies that will favour the interests and integrate the economies of its member countries.

THE ECONOMY

General
Prior to World War II, the Mexican economy was based principally on agriculture and mining. Since that time, the economy has become increasingly diversified and industrialised. Industrial output, including the extractive and construction industries, accounted for approximately 39% of total gross domestic product in 1980 as compared to 30% in 1950. Mexico is currently self-sufficient in many agricultural products and most minerals.

In recent years Mexico has become a significant producer and exporter of petroleum and related products.

G

UNITED MEXICAN STATES continued**The General Development Plan 1980-1982**

The cornerstone of the Government's economic and social policy during the period 1980 to 1982 is the General Development Plan (the "Plan") for such period. The Plan identifies national economic and social problems, calls for specific action by the public sector and establishes guidelines for participation by the private sector.

The Plan sets forth reforms in all sectors of the economy to promote industrialisation, obtain high levels of employment and meet the social needs of the Mexican population. It also coordinates and extends certain social, economic, political and administrative reforms already instituted by the present Administration. Measured exploitation of Mexico's oil reserves will provide major support to the implementation of the Plan. The Plan's energy policy calls for extraction and use of petroleum and petroleum products in such a manner as to provide substantial long-term income. (See "Petroleum and Petrochemicals".)

Employment is a high priority of the Plan. The Government is committed to improving employment opportunities and ensuring that high levels of employment exist throughout the public and private sectors. Meeting these objectives will be dependent upon continued economic growth, public and private investment and the Government's support of developing industries.

Inflation continues to pose a persistent problem for the Mexican economy and the Plan has as one of its objectives the slowing of the inflation rate. However, the Government does not intend to reduce the rate of inflation at the cost of slowing the economy's growth or the creation of jobs. Instead, the Government expects to ease inflationary pressures by stimulating domestic supply and productivity; regulating prices of basic commodities; directing Government spending to priority needs such as agriculture, energy, education and social welfare and eliminating inefficiencies which impose unnecessary costs.

The Plan also addresses the serious problems associated with the growth of large urban areas such as Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey. The Government has taken steps to ease these problems through tax and other incentives to encourage the location of new industry in less densely populated areas. In addition, the Government is making public investment in local infrastructure to promote regional economic development. The Government also plans to continue its efforts to reduce the population growth rate.

The specific goals the Plan expects to achieve by 1982 include an annual real growth rate of 8% in gross domestic product and a reduction of the population growth rate to 2.5%. It is anticipated that average real growth in public investment for the years 1981 and 1982 will be at least 14%, and if the current pattern of imports and exports continues, the specific goal of the Plan is to maintain a current account deficit of slightly below 1% of the estimated gross domestic product.

The Plan contains financial incentives to foster capital formation, especially for small and medium-sized companies which produce capital goods or basic commodities. In addition, the Government plans to maintain a policy of flexible interest rates to encourage domestic savings and to channel credit into priority areas, particularly the rural sections of the country.

Continued expansion of the economy will be supported by the Government through, among other things, direct public investment, the diversification of resources for domestic financing, the strengthening of the securities markets and the restructuring of the tax laws to eliminate distortions and stimulate savings. The Government will place increased emphasis on fostering exports and improving Mexico's international competitiveness. According to the Plan, protective trade barriers will be reviewed and a gradual opening up of the Mexican economy to world goods will occur, consistent with domestic objectives.

During 1980 some of the objectives set out in the Plan began to be achieved, for example in the areas of GDP, employment, population and investment.

Petroleum and Petrochemicals:

General. The Mexican petroleum and natural gas industry, including exploration, production, refining, distribution, and the manufacture and first-sale of basic petrochemicals and certain other derivatives, is entrusted by the Constitution and Federal Law solely to Petróleos Mexicanos ("Pemex"), a decentralised public agency which is wholly-owned by the Mexican Government. Pemex is the largest enterprise in Mexico, with total assets of \$13,299.9 million at 31 December, 1980, and net sales of \$6,022.6 million for the year ended 31 December, 1980. Prices for Pemex's products are set by the Government. Mexico is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The non-renewable nature of oil resources has imposed the need for a national policy for oil exploitation in order to create a permanent source of income. The target set by the Development Plan for oil production at year end 1982 was 2.5 million barrels per day (BPD), although this target was reached in December 1980. Average daily production for 1980 was approximately 1.9 million BPD.

In 1980 the petroleum industry, excluding secondary petrochemicals, contributed 23.7% of current Government revenues (11.5% in 1979). For 1980 this industry provided 67.8% of the total value of exports (46.4% in 1979).

Oil and natural gas supply the majority of Mexico's primary energy requirements, including that needed to generate approximately 55% of the electric output of the nation. Mexico is self-sufficient in both crude oil and natural gas. Pemex currently produces more than 99% of the country's total requirements for refined products. Mexico became a net exporter of petroleum products in 1975 with the development of new discoveries in the Reforma area of southern Mexico. In 1980 Mexico reported an average of 827,750 BPD of crude oil worth a total of \$3,952.0 million, representing a 167.9% increase over the previous year.

Pemex pays taxes to the Government based on total revenues at a rate of 15% for petrochemicals and 2% for all other products. Exports of crude oil are subject to a 5% 35% tax on gross sales (including a 1% ad valorem tax). Total tax revenue received by the Government from Pemex has grown from \$8,598 million in 1975 to \$16,688 million in 1980.

Reserves and Exploration. Mexico currently has proven petroleum and natural gas reserves equivalent to approximately 72 billion barrels, which are the fourth largest in the world. Proven reserves are determined according to the American Petroleum Institute's methods of measurement, using international reservoir engineering principles and include those reserves which are expected to be produced through primary and secondary recovery, using existing technology and operating methods at current levels of production costs and petroleum prices, but do not include the areas where new petroleum discoveries have been made and not yet placed into production. In addition, probable reserves are estimated at 58.6 billion barrels and potential reserves (including probable reserves) are estimated at 250 billion barrels.

The table below sets forth Mexico's proven reserves of crude oil and natural gas liquids and natural gas from 1976 to 1980, and as of 18 March, 1981, and the total of the above as of 1 September, 1981.

Total Proven Reserves

	As of 31 December					
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Crude Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (millions of barrels)	7,278	10,422	28,406	33,560	47,224	53,023
Natural Gas (equivalent of crude oil in millions of barrels)	3,882	5,574	11,791	12,243	13,902	14,807
Total	11,160	16,001	40,194	45,813	60,126	67,830

Prior to 1975, Pemex's exploration efforts were concentrated in the Gulf of Mexico coastal plain area, where substantially all of the country's oil and gas fields had been discovered. Since 1975, however, Pemex has increased its exploration activities in other regions. The significant increase in proven reserves between 1977 and 1978 is the result of exploration and drilling efforts in the Reforma area in southern Mexico and the increase from 1979 to 1980 is the result of exploration and drilling efforts in the Campeche Gulf, Chiapas-Tobasco, Sinaloa and Chicontepec areas. Approximately 16,122 million of the \$16,519.3 million exploration budget for 1980 was allocated to evaluation of geological basins in which prior exploration has yielded encouraging results, such as Baja California and the southern offshore zone.

Production and Refining. The following table sets forth average daily production rates for crude oil and condensate, natural gas liquids and natural gas in each of the years 1976 to 1980.

Pemex Average Daily Production

	As of 31 December				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Crude Oil and Condensate (BPD)	800,864	981,069	1,212,622	1,471,030	1,936,047
Natural Gas Liquids (BPD)	75,723	104,481	116,957	146,971	193,418
Total Crude Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids (BPD)	826,587	1,085,550	1,329,579	1,618,001	2,129,465
Refining Rates (BPD)	737,743	829,234	889,678	964,806	1,148,900
Natural Gas ('000 cubic feet per day)	2,108,600	2,046,200	2,561,400	2,916,600	3,546,000

Production rates for 1980 averaged 1,936,047 BPD for crude oil and condensates, 1,148,900 BPD for natural gas liquids and 3,546,000 cubic feet per day for natural gas.

Pemex's principal refining activities are concentrated in seven major refineries and two smaller installations. At 31 December, 1980, Pemex's total refining capacity was 1,476,000 BPD with an average 45.7% yield of petroleum distillates. Total production of refined products amounted to 1,148,900 BPD in 1980, or 77.8% of refining capacity. This number represents an increase of 73.4% in refined production since 1975. Pemex is engaged in a programme to expand and upgrade its refining capacity through the construction of five major new refining complexes. The total cost of these five refineries over the period 1980-1982 is expected to be US\$1.0 billion.

During 1980, Pemex produced an aggregate of 3,546,000 million cubic feet per day of natural gas. It has ten cryogenic plants capable of processing 2,492 million cubic feet per day. Eight additional cryogenic natural gas processing plants with an aggregate capacity of 4,000 million cubic feet per day are currently under construction. Approximately 24% of natural gas production was flared in 1976, 1977 and 1978, 12.4% in 1979 and 12% in 1980.

Distribution. Pemex-owned natural gas and product pipelines connect the major producing areas with Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Chihuahua. At the end of 1980, Pemex's pipeline facilities consisted of 5,608.1 kilometres for crude oil and natural gas, 8,593 kilometres for natural gas and 6,399 kilometres for finished products. Several major pipelines are at present under construction or in various planning stages.

Petrochemicals. Pemex produced 7.2 million metric tonnes of basic petrochemicals in 1980. At the end of 1980 Pemex was producing 38 basic petrochemical derivatives. It has established as an operating priority the supply of basic feedstock for manufacturing companies. Pemex has 81 petrochemical plants in operation with an aggregate capacity of 8,886,453 metric tonnes per year and 52 additional petrochemical plants are under construction. Major expansion is anticipated in the production of ammonia, ethylene and polyethylene and in the utilisation of natural gas liquids as feedstocks and aromatics.

Under Mexican law, the Government may grant licences for the manufacture of secondary petrochemicals to private companies whose share capital is at least 60% owned by Mexican nationals.

Exports and Imports of Petroleum Products

Exports and imports of oil and gas products for the periods indicated are as follows:

Volume of Petroleum Exports and Imports

	Year ended 31 December				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980 (1)
Exports:					
Crude oil (BPD)	94,180	202,016	365,060	672,000	327,750
Refined products (BPD)	3,235	4,525	1,844	10,141	46,403
Petrochemicals (tons per day)	—	83	1,930	2,055	3,045
Natural gas ('000 cubic feet per day)	—	—	—	280,900	—
Imports:					
Refined products (BPD)	25,571	9,495	29,088	27,054	14,831
Petrochemicals (tons per day)	865	1,261	1,330	1,385	2,082
(1) Preliminary					

Value of Petroleum Exports and Imports

	Year ended 31 December				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980 (1)
<i>(Millions of Pesos)</i>					
Exports:					
Crude oil	246.9	514.2	861.8	1,717.6	3,952.0
Refined products	24.7	28.1	36.5	160.7	187.3
Petrochemicals	9.3	11.9	4.6	20.5	50.4
Natural gas	—	—	—	—	—
Imports:					
Refined products	74.1	26.9	70.5	94.0	101.6
Petrochemicals	61.0	81.5	80.1	149.4	218.7
Natural gas	135.1	108.4	150.6	243.4	320.3
Net exports	121.3	422.2	749.3	1,532.1	4,030.1
Percentage increase from preceding year	38.4	248.1	71.4	107.4	159.5

The following table sets forth Pemex's principal export markets for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980.

Principal Export Markets

	Year ended 31 December				
	1978	1979	1980 (1)	(Thousands of Pesos)	
Brazil	3,734				

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To improve living conditions for low income people and provide loans for property and housing at reasonable terms, the Federal Government established the Institute of the National Housing Fund for Wage-Earners ("Infonavit") in 1972. The fund managed by Infonavit is supported by contributions from all employers equivalent to 5% of all salaries paid. During 1980, Infonavit loaned approximately 17,271 million pesos for housing purchases, construction and repair.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The Federal Budget of the Mexican Government consists of revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government and of certain majority-owned governmental agencies whose particular budgets require specific legislative approval ("budget-controlled agencies"). Among the most important budget-controlled agencies are Pemex, Comisión Federal de Electricidad, Ferrocarriles Nacionales de México and the social security and social welfare agencies. The Public Sector Budget consists of the Federal Budget and the budgets of the administratively-controlled agencies (principally Telefones de México, S.A., Altos Hornos de México, S.A., the Mexico City subway and the national credit institutions), which are entities in which the Government, directly or indirectly, owns a majority interest and whose budgets are not subject to specific legislative approval. The revenues and expenditures of the administratively-controlled agencies are subject to secretarial review, and, in the case of the budget-controlled agencies, appropriate Secretariat approval is required for such agencies to obtain financing.

The budget-controlled agencies and the administratively-controlled agencies pay taxes which are reflected in the revenues of the Federal Government. From time to time both types of agencies may receive transfers for current expenditures from the Federal Government and appropriations for capital expenditures, which, when they occur, are reflected in the current or capital accounts of the Federal Budget.

The revenues and expenditures of only the most important administratively-controlled agencies are compiled for budget purposes, and, accordingly, the only figure reflecting the consolidated accounts of the entire public sector is the consolidated deficit figure for the Public Sector Budget. This figure is set forth below, together with an indication of its relationship in each year to the gross domestic product.

Public Sector Deficit

	Year ended 31 December				
	1976	1977	1978	1979	
(Millions of Pesos)					
Public Sector Deficit	224.0	1,053.3	1,020.0	222.7	
Gross Domestic Product (at current prices)	1,228.0	1,614.7	2,122.8	2,767.0	
Public Sector Deficit as % of Gross Domestic Product	10.1%	7.5%	7.6%	8.1%	

State and local government finance is regulated by the Mexican Constitution, which provides that state and local governments may not obtain financing in foreign currencies or from foreign governments, corporations or individuals.

The Federal Government may provide funds to state and local governments only for specific projects which will provide a satisfactory return on investment. For each project, the state and local governments are required to file reports with the Federal Government and to warrant that the project will provide the required return.

Budget Process

The Federal Government's fiscal year is a calendar year. The budget preparing process involves the participation and coordination on an overall and sectoral basis of all the Federal Secretariats and agencies. The Secretariat of Finance prepares the revenue bill which sets forth the revenues to be received by the Federal Government and budget-controlled agencies during the succeeding fiscal year. The various Secretariats prepare expenditure estimates for their own operations and all of the budget-controlled agencies under their jurisdiction, within the policy orientation and programme guidelines established by the Secretariat of Programming and Budget. These expenditure requests are then reviewed by the Secretariat of Programming and Budget which prepares the expenditure bill for the Federal Government and the budget-controlled agencies.

Upon enactment by both houses of the Congress, the revenue bill becomes the Annual Revenue Law, which provides the necessary authority for collecting taxes and other revenues and contracting loans. Upon enactment by the Chamber of Deputies, the expenditure bill becomes the Expenditure Budget, which provides the authority for incurring expenses.

After the Expenditure Budget has been approved, the President may authorize increased expenditures during the fiscal year as a result of increased revenues or for other reasons that he may consider suitable. The Expenditure Budget may also include provisions for the automatic increase of certain expenditures. These expenditure increases do not require prior legislative approval. Within twelve months after the end of the fiscal year, the official fiscal record of the Government is subjected to the review of the Chamber of Deputies.

Revenues and Expenditures of the Federal Government and the Budget-controlled Agencies

The following table sets forth the Federal Budget, which represents the revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government and the budget-controlled agencies on a consolidated basis after netting out the effect of transfers between the Federal Government and the budget-controlled agencies.

Revenues and Expenditures of the Federal Government and Budget-controlled Agencies

	Year ended 31 December					
	1976	1977	1978	1979	Budget 1980	Budget 1981
(Billions of Pesos)						
Revenues						
Current	321.2	454.0	605.5	885.7	1,189.6	1,620.9
Capital	14.5	29.8	27.3	32.7	38.0	3.4
Total Revenues	335.7	483.8	632.8	888.4	1,227.6	1,624.3
Expenditures						
Current	585.3	485.7	499.9	688.8	972.7	1,323.8
Capital	157.7	207.0	232.3	389.0	466.4	694.5
Total Expenditures	743.0	692.7	732.2	1,047.8	1,439.1	2,018.3
Adjustments						
Items in previous fiscal year budget payable in current year	—	—	—	—	45.0	60.0
Items in current year budget payable in following year	—	—	—	—	(50.0)	(76.0)
Items in current year budget not expected to be spent	—	—	—	—	64.7	70.1
Deficit to be Financed	188.2	128.9	119.4	179.4	181.8	297.9

The consolidated Federal Budget for 1980 shows a 57.3% increase over 1979 expenditures and a 40.2% increase over 1979 revenues. In 1981, the consolidated Federal Budget shows a 40.2% increase over 1980 budgeted expenditures and a 34.2% increase over 1980 budgeted revenues. The increased expenditures in 1980 and 1981 are principally attributable to the high rate of inflation and the rapid growth in public investment.

Revenues and Expenditures of the Federal Government

Revenues of the Federal Government consist principally of income taxes imposed on businesses (including budget- and administratively-controlled agencies) and individuals, the Value Added Tax, duties on imports and exports and capital receipts. The expenditures of the Federal Government consist of current expenditures and capital expenditures, including allocations to budget- and administratively-controlled agencies.

The following table provides a summary of revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government for the years indicated:

Revenues and Expenditures of the Federal Government (1)

	Year ended 31 December					
	1976	1977	1978	1979	Budget 1980	Budget 1981
(Millions of Pesos)						
Current Revenues						
Taxes on Income	39,068	46,378	66,430	98,466	(2)	(2)
Business Income	32,978	47,032	65,774	74,549	(2)	(2)
Personal Income	66,046	95,410	132,184	173,015	198,660	367,389
Other taxes						
Value Added Tax (2)	33,955	51,573	61,378	79,514	161,350	229,301
Commercial Receipts	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taxes	30,382	40,507	52,702	75,083	104,774	60,110
Import Duties	12,202	10,735	14,755	20,804	25,474	26,700
Export Duties	2,700	15,505	24,055	34,160	150,533	265,700
Other	5,414	5,936	8,781	10,912	13,239	3,000
Total Other Taxes	84,723	124,356	158,300	222,473	338,602	558,122
Other Current Revenues	10,084	10,906	11,384	15,899	18,587	28,000
Total Current Revenues	160,863	228,573	302,168	417,587	575,839	953,500
Current Expenditures						
Direct Administrative Expenses	83,392	71,590	95,973	119,171	138,719	352,170
Public Debt Interest and Expenses	21,059	33,836	41,737	56,623	77,925	118,532
Transfer Payments (compr. subsidies, social security payments, etc.) (3)	66,088	90,571	98,738	143,572	178,534	355,852
Other Current Expenditures	967	661	1,380	—	59,284	—
Total Current Expenditures	173,506	196,658	235,518	319,668	454,462	836,354

	Year ended 31 December					
	1976	1977	1978	1979	Budget 1980	Budget 1981
(Millions of Pesos)						
Surplus (Deficit) on Current Account	(17,643)	32,214	66,330	97,719	141,367	126,946
Capital Revenues (excluding proceeds of loans)	2,279	2,947	7,012	1,360	4,000	2,000
Capital Expenditures	(91,449)	(126,519)	(151,364)	(212,914)	(269,183)	(433,105)
Surplus (Deficit) on Capital Account	(89,220)	(125,556)	(124,337)	(211,554)	(265,183)	(431,105)
Budgetary Surplus (Deficit)	(101,863)	(95,542)	(58,002)	(115,835)	(123,671)	(504,157)

	Year ended 31 December					
	1976	1977	1978	1979	Budget 1980	Budget 1981
(Millions of Pesos)						
Adjustment to Cash Basis Items in Previous Year Budget Payable in Current Year	—	—	—	—	(45,000)	(60,000)
Items in Current Year Budget Payable in Following Year	—	—	—	—	50,000	76,000
Budgeted Amounts Not Expected to Be Spent	—	—	—	—	17,213	37,100
Deficit in Finance	(101,863)	(95,542)	(58,002)	(115,835)	(101,458)	(218,037)
Gross Borrowing	96,728	71,682	59,170	191,728	—	—
Internal	76,829	55,805	45,543	59,973	—	—
External	—</td					

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The following table sets forth the balance of trade for the years 1975 to 1980:

Balance of Trade (1)						
	Year ended 31 December					
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979 (2)	1980 (2)
(Millions of Pounds)						
Exports (f.o.b.) (3)	1,413.6	1,949.3	2,301.3	2,965.5	3,964.9	6,462.1
Imports (4)	5,251.2	3,544.7	3,057.6	3,876.4	5,401.4	7,767.5
Balance of Trade	(1,837.6)	(1,595.4)	(766.3)	(907.9)	(1,436.5)	(1,303.4)
Exports as a Percentage of Imports	43.5%	55.0%	75.0%	76.6%	73.4%	82.4%
(1) Excluding amounts attributable to border trade, exports of silver and operations of oil-based industries.						
(2) Preliminary.						
(3) Reference is made to Note (3) of the table "Exports and Imports by Major Groups" herein for information as to the valuation of exports.						
(4) Imports as at 31 December 1975, 1976 and 1977 and as of 31 March 1978, 1979 and 1980.						

The most important components of merchandise exports are manufactured goods, agricultural products and extractive materials (including crude oil and natural gas), which in 1980 amounted to 22.1%, 10.1% and 67.8% of total exports of goods and services, respectively.

The following table sets forth the exports and imports by major commodity group for the years 1978-1980.

Exports and Imports by Major Groups

	Year ended 31 December (1)		
	1978	1979	1980 (2)
Exports (f.o.b.) (3)			
Agricultural	734.9	801.5	645.8
Coke Oil and Natural Gas	868.4	1,696.6	4,131.5
Other Extractive Materials	104.0	142.9	210.4
Total Extractive Materials	972.4	1,839.5	4,381.9
Food	360.7	340.2	302.3
Textiles	22.7	94.3	84.7
Metal Products, Machinery and Equipment	322.8	340.2	386.9
Other Manufactured Goods	674.0	528.5	608.5
Total Manufactured Goods	1,260.2	1,323.1	1,413.2
Unclassified Products	1.0	0.8	1.2
Total Exports	2,968.5	3,964.9	6,462.1
Imports (f.o.b.)			
Agricultural	448.4	438.2	861.4
Chemicals	385.5	497.6	621.1
Iron and Steel Products	443.1	507.8	763.0
Metal Products, Machinery and Equipment	1,814.9	2,802.2	3,272.2
Other Manufactured Goods	681.6	934.7	1,617.6
Total Manufactured Goods	3,325.1	4,760.3	6,728.9
Unclassified Products	3.2	93.7	90.2
Special Border Zone Products	99.7	109.2	107.0
Total Imports	3,876.4	5,401.4	7,767.5

(1) Pre-1978 information is not included because of changes in reporting classification.

(2) The export value of the items in this table are based on values declared in export invoices, except that such values for certain items are adjusted to reflect the average prices reported in United States import statistics and the export value of cotton is based on the quotations for Mexican cotton in the Liverpool market, after deducting freight and other transportation charges.

The Federal Government has played an important role in promoting exports, particularly manufactured products, by an integrated foreign trade policy based on fiscal and financial incentives and direct promotion. The Government operates several export-related institutions, the most important of which are Fondo para las Exportaciones de Productos Manufacturados, Fondo Nacional de Equipoamiento Industrial and Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior. Promotion of foreign trade is primarily the responsibility of Instituto Mexicano de Comercio Exterior.

Geographic Distribution of Trade

The United States is Mexico's most important trading partner. In 1980 trade with the United States accounted for 61.8% and 63.3% of total exports and imports, respectively.

The following table summarises the geographic distribution of Mexico's total recorded external trade by percentage:

	Year ended 31 December			
	1976	1977	1978	1979 (2)
Exports				
United States	62.1%	65.7%	70.9%	69.9%
Western Europe	11.3	10.5	8.8	11.6
Asia	6.2	5.2	7.4	9.0
Latin America	16.9	16.1	10.0	7.7
Others	3.5	2.5	2.9	1.9
Total Exports	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Imports				
United States	62.4%	63.5%	61.7%	63.1%
Western Europe	20.7	20.5	21.2	19.0
Asia	5.7	6.2	8.4	7.4
Latin America	6.8	5.7	5.0	5.8
Others	4.4	4.0	3.7	4.4
Total Imports	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(1) Preliminary.

Balance of International Payments

Mexico has experienced a deficit on current account in the balance of payments for a number of years. The deficit has been due, in large part, to the demand for goods necessary to promote the industrialisation of its economy.

Following a sharp increase in 1978, the current account deficit was lower in 1977 and 1978. The reduction in the deficit in those years was principally attributable to a slowdown in demand and a higher level of exports brought about by the floating of the Mexican peso in August 1976 and the increase in petroleum production.

The current account deficit in 1980 was £2,758.9 million, which represented an increase of 26.1% over the prior year's deficit which totalled £2,183.6 million. The main factors contributing to the deficit were a sharp deterioration in the trade balance due to the rapid growth of the economy, a surge in border trade payments and higher interest on foreign borrowings. It is expected that the size of the deficit will decline in the near future as a percentage of GDP, although not necessarily in absolute terms, primarily as a result of increases in petroleum related exports.

The current account deficit was financed in 1980 through a combination of net short- and long-term capital inflows. The long-term capital account registered a surplus of £2,557.7 million, consisting principally of foreign borrowing by the public sector and private direct investment and borrowing. After large outflows of short-term capital in 1977 and 1978, due primarily to the Government's policy of repaying short-term indebtedness with the proceeds of long-term borrowing, the balance on short-term capital was in surplus by £65.5 million in 1979 and £88.6 million in 1980.

The following table sets forth the principal items of the balance of payments of Mexico during the period 1976-1980:

Balance of Payments						
	Year ended 31 December					
	1976	1977	1978	1979 (2)	1980 (2)	
(Millions of Pounds)						
Current Account:						
Credits	4,333.4	4,377.1	5,705.3	7,269.7	10,380.4	
Debits	6,137.4	5,222.5	7,023.8	9,488.3	13,132.3	
Deficit on Current Account	1,804.0	845.4	1,318.5	2,188.6	2,758.9	
Capital Account:						
Long-term Capital:	2,478.2	2,016.9	1,989.3	1,418.1	1,974.4	
Public Sector (Net)	226.0	264.0	288.1	468.8	888.3	
Private Sector (Net)	2,252.2	1,752.9	1,701.2	1,150.3	1,100.1	
Total Long-term Capital	2,734.2	2,280.9	2,277.4	1,886.9	2,385.7	
Short-term Capital:						
Liabilities:	516.2	(494.6)	(729.2)	92.6	38.3	
Public Sector	220.7	(165.5)	(23.9)	766.4	1,821.0	
Private Sector	295.5	(234.1)	(705.3)	859.0	1,849.3	
Total Liabilities	736.4	(663.1)	(705.3)	921.6	2,016.9	
Assets:	(412.9)	(457.1)	(352.5)	(791.5)	862.7	
Total Net Short-term Capital	323.9	(1,120.2)	(737.8)	65.5	986.6	
Surplus on Capital Account	3,058.1	1,160.7	1,539.6	1,952.4	3,572.3	
Net Balance of Payments	1,253.7	315.3	221.1	236.2	813.4	

(1) Preliminary.

Mexico maintains a free convertibility of its currency and does not impose any type of restrictions on the buying or selling of foreign currencies by residents or non-residents. Moreover, there are no regulations prescribing the method or currency to be used for payments made outside Mexico to or from non-residents.

Mexico permits a free internal market in gold although the right to export gold is reserved exclusively to Banco de Mexico. Commercial banks and specialised private financiers are permitted to trade in gold. Imports of gold are permitted and, when licensed by Banco de Mexico, are free of customs duties.

The rate of exchange of the peso was 12.50 pesos to the United States dollar from 1954 until 31 August, 1976, when the Government announced that the Banco de Mexico would no longer maintain the fixed exchange rate. This last measure was taken in view of the deterioration of Mexico's external position as reflected by an increase in Mexico's current account deficit and a decline in cost and price competitiveness in international markets.

International Reserves

The international reserves of Mexico have increased in each year since 1976. The following table sets forth the gross and secondary international reserves of the Banco de Mexico at the end of the years 1976 to 1980 and at 31 August, 1981.

International Reserves						
	As of 31 December					
	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
(Millions of Pounds)						
Gross International Reserves (1)						

CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

Financial Times Tuesday September 15 1981

WORLD VALUE OF THE POUND

The table below gives the latest available rate of exchange for the pound against various currencies on September 14, 1981. In some cases rates are nominal. Market rates are the average of buying and selling rates except where they are shown to be otherwise. In some cases market rates have been calculated from those of foreign currencies to which they are convertible.

Abbreviations: (A) approximate rate; (B) bankers' rate; (C) commercial and going concern; (D) discount rate; (E) convertible franc; (F) financial rate; (G) exchange certificate rate; (H) Schedule Territory; (I) non-commercial rate; (N) nominal; (S) basic rate; (B) buying rate; (S) official rate; (U) selling rate.

PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING	PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING	PLACE AND LOCAL UNIT	VALUE OF £ STERLING
Afghanistan.....Afghan	101.00	Danish Kroner	13.205	Peru.....Sol	13.95
Albania.....Lek	10.10	Grenada (S).....Caribbean \$	10.2325	Philippines.....Peso	1.7620
Algeria.....Dinar	7.4555	Guadeloupe (S).....Local Franc	1.7950	Pitcairn Islands (S).....Sterling	2.1795
Andorra.....Spanish Peseta	1.7505	Guatemala.....Quetzal	1.7950	New Zealand \$	1.7950
Angola.....Kwanza	17.20	Honduras.....Soy	59.40	Poland.....Zloty	1.7950
Antigua (S).....E. Caribbean \$	65.139	Guyana (S).....Guyanese \$	5.5310	Portugal.....Portuguese Escudo	1.7950
Argentina.....Ar. Peso	13.1250	Haiti.....Gourde	1.7950	Puerto Rico.....U.S. \$	1.7950
Australia (S).....Australian \$	1.5685	Honduras Repub.	1.7950	Qatar (S).....Qatar Riyal	1.7950
Austria.....Schilling	1.7505	Hong Kong (S).....H.K. \$	1.7950	Romania (S).....French Franc	1.7950
Azores.....Portuguese Escudo	11.70	Hungary.....Forint	1.7950	Rwanda.....Rwanda Franc	1.7950
Bahamas (S).....Ba. Dollar	1.8550	I. K. (S).....E. Caribbean \$	1.7950	S. Christopher (S).....E. Caribbean \$	1.7950
Bahrain.....Dinar	1.7500	Ind. Rupes	1.7950	St. Helena.....St. Helena	1.7950
Bangladesh (S).....Taka	17.30	India (S).....Rupiah	1.7950	St. Lucia.....Caribbean \$	1.7950
Barbados \$†	3.5000	Iran.....Rial	1.7950	St. Vincent (S).....E. Caribbean \$	1.7950
Belgium.....B. Franc	5.5900	Iceland (S).....Icelandic Kr.	1.7950	Salvador B. (S).....Colon	1.7950
Belize.....B. S.	1.7500	Israel.....Shekel	1.7950	Sierra Leone.....Leone	1.7950
Benin.....C.F.A. Franc	5.5900	Italy.....Lira	1.7950	Somalia (S).....Somali Shilling	1.7950
Bermuda (S).....Dollar	1.7500	Jamaica (S).....Jamaica \$	1.7950	Somali Republic.....Somali Shilling	1.7950
Bolivia.....Indian Rupes	16.40	Japan.....Yen	1.7950	South Africa (S).....Rand	1.7950
Bolivia.....Peso	44.05	Jordan (S).....Dinar	1.7950	Korea (Nth).....Won	1.7950
Bolivia.....Pula	1.7500	Jamaica Dollar	1.7950	Korea (Sth).....Won	1.7950
Bolivia.....U.S. \$	1.7500	Kenya (S).....Shilling	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Brit. Virgin Isles (S).....U.S. \$	1.7500	Kenya Shilling	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Brunel \$	3.8900	Kenya Shilling	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Bulgaria.....Lev	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Burma.....Kyat	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Burundi.....Franc	165.225	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Cameroon Republic.....C.F.A. Franc	51.1525	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Canadian \$	2.1580	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Canary Islands.....Spanish Peseta	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Cape Verde (S).....Cape V. Escudo	55.25	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Cayman Islands (S).....Cay. I. \$	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Cat. At. Repub.C. F.A. Franc	51.1525	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Chad.....C. F.A. Franc	51.1525	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Chile.....Peso	5.5900	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
China.....P. Yuan	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Comoros (S).....C. P. Franc	51.1525	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Comoro Islands.....C.F.A. Franc	51.1525	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Congo (Brazzaville).....C.F.A. Franc	51.1525	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Costa Rica.....Colón	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Croatia.....Croatian Peso	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Cyprus (S).....Cyprus \$	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Czechoslovakia.....Koruna	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Denmark.....Danish Krone	15.355	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Djibouti.....Fr.	4.85	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Dominica (S).....E. Caribbean \$	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Dominican Repub.Dominican	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Ecuador.....Sucra	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Egypt.....Egyptian \$	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Equatorial Guinea.....Ekuale	346.4	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Ethiopia.....Ethiopian Birr	3.5950	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Falkland Islands (S).....Falkland Is. & £	1.0	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Faroe Islands.....Danish Krone	13.555	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Fiji Islands.....Fiji \$	1.6075	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Finland.....Markka	1.7500	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
France.....French Franc	10.3325	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
French Guiana (P).....C.F.A. Franc	51.1525	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
French Guiana (P).....French Franc	10.3325	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
French Pacific (S).....C.F.P. Franc	175 (sg)	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Gabon.....C.F.A. Franc	61.625	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Gambia (S).....Dalasi	4.0	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Germany (West).....Mark	4.25	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Ghana (S).....Cedi	4.92	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Gibraltar (K).....Gibraltar \$	1.0	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950
Greece.....Drachma	105.147	Khmer (S).....Riel	1.7950	Spain.....Peso	1.7950

*That part of the French community in Africa formerly French West Africa or French Equatorial Africa. **Rupes per pound. †General rates of oil and iron exports 75.40. **Rate is the transfer market (controlled). ††Rate is now based on 2 Barbados to the dollar. ‡Now one official rate. (U) Unified rate. Applicable on all transactions except countries having a bilateral agreement with Egypt and who are not members of IMF. (B) Based on gross rates against Russian rouble. (1) Official rates for government transactions and specified exports and imports. (2) Parallel rates for non-government transactions and specified exports and imports. (3) Official exchange rate for essential imports. (4) Exports, non-essential imports and dividends.

£ and \$ ease

Sterling lost ground in currency markets yesterday although there were no new factors to affect trading. Interest in the pound was minimal for much of the day. Sterling recovered later in the day as domestic interest rates rose following signals from the Bank of England that higher interest rates were now necessary to achieve monetary aims and in view of sterling's current weakness.

The dollar was weaker against most currencies reflecting a softer trend in U.S. interest rates after Friday's U.S. money supply figures. The Italian lira and Danish krone were both weaker in the European Monetary System yesterday, while other currencies showed little change. The devaluation of the Swedish krone led to speculation that some sort of currency realignment within the EMS could take place. The D-mark remained the strongest currency and the Belgian franc the weakest.

STERLING — Trade weighted index (Bank of England) fell to 97.0 from 97.5, having stood at 98.6 at noon and 97.4 in the afternoon. Sterling recovered during the afternoon on expectations of higher domestic interest rates. Against the dollar it closed at \$1.7950, a rise of 1.7c, having touched a low of \$1.7880 during the afternoon. Against the D-mark it sank to DM 4.18 at one point but recovered to close at DM 4.250 from DM 4.27 on Friday. It finished at \$WFr 3.8450 against the Swiss franc from \$WFr 3.8525.

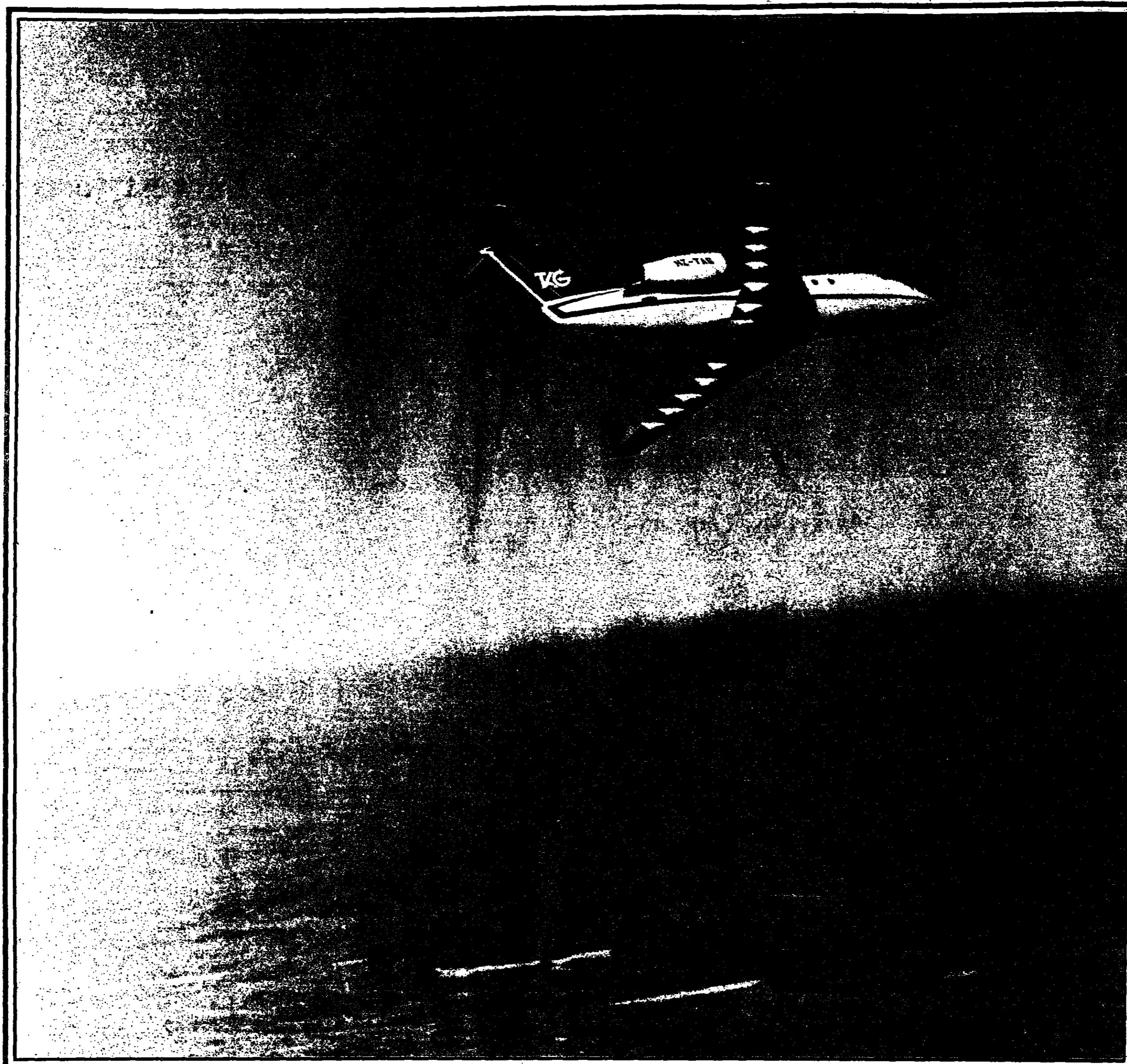
DOLLAR — Trade weighted index (Bank of England) fell to 110.1 from 110.6. The dollar fell during the morning but recovered ground in the afternoon. Against the D-mark it finished at DM 2.740 from DM 2.4010 and \$WFr 2.0310 from \$WFr 2.0540. In terms of the

Swiss franc the dollar was downed reflecting little room for manoeuvre in view of high interest rates elsewhere. The 10 per cent devaluation came as something of a surprise to many dealers although there had been some speculation over the weekend. In the past year the krone has risen steadily against the D-mark and other trading partners and the authorities' latest move should help restore Sweden's export competitiveness. The dollar was quoted at SKr 5.6860 compared with SKr 5.6125 on Friday and starting at SKr 10.1285 from SKr 9.2150. The Swedish central bank was in the market from time to time to smooth out any fluctuations. The D-mark traded at SKr 2.3580 against \$WFr 2.0540. In terms of the

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept 14	Day's spread	Close	One month	Two months
U.S. 1.7850-1.7880	1.7845-1.7885	1.7845-1.7885	1.7845-1.7885	1.7845-1.7885
Canada 2.1200-2.1210	2.1205-2.1215	2.1205-2.1215	2.1205-2.1215	2.1205-2.1215
Netherlands 1.62-1.62	1.61-1.62	1.61-1.62	1.61-1.62	1.61-1.62
Belgium 1.53-1.53	1.52-1.53	1.52-1.53	1.52-1.53	1.52-1.53
Switzerland 1.7050-1.7170	1.7050-1.7170	1.7050-1.7170	1.7050-1.7170	1.7050-1.7170
W. Ger. 4.28-4.28	4.28-4.28	4.28-4.28	4.28-4.28	4.28-4.28
Portugal 11.25-11.75	11.25-11.75	11.25-11.75	11.25-11.75	11.25-11.75
Austria 1.21-1.21	1.21-1.21	1.21-1.21	1.21-1.21	1.21-1.21
Spain 10.04-10.24	10.22-10.25	10.22-10.25	10.22-10.25	10.22-10.25
Sweden 10.13-10.22	10.15-10.25	10.15-10.25	10.15-10.25	10.15-10.25
Switzerland 22.35-22.55	22.35-22.55	22.35-22.55	22.35-22.55	22.35-22.55
Switzerland 22.35-22.55	22.35-22.55	22.35-22.55	22.35-22.55</	

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Nickel pay offer vote

By Our Commodities Staff

INTERNATIONAL Nickel workers at the company's Thompson, Manitoba, plant were voting yesterday to decide whether or not to accept the company's "final offer" on the terms of new labour contracts.

Existing three-year contracts expire today, but talks having been going on since July seek to agree terms of new contracts, although the union has been pressing for them to last for only one year instead of three.

Inc., proposing terms for new three-year contracts to the 1,900 workers at Thompson, claimed the offer was the largest wage and benefit package ever offered to Inc. workers anywhere. The wage of the average workers would be raised from \$11.10 to \$16.80 an hour by September 1984, assuming cost-of-living adjustments at the current 13 per cent inflation rate.

Reuter reported from Thompson that leaders of the union (the United Steelworkers of America) are recommending rejection of the offer.

The Thompson complex accounts for about a third of Inc.'s total production. Labour contracts at the Sudbury plant, the main production unit, do not expire until next summer.

Kenya coffee surplus tops 1m bags

NAIROBI—Kenya has a coffee surplus of more than 1m bags (60 kilos each), the Coffee Board said here yesterday.

Kenya exhausted its 1.16m bags export quota allocated by the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) last July. Its quota for the year ending in October was originally 1.3m bags but was cut by 140,000 bags during the year as part of an effort to curb falling prices.

The board said some of the surplus coffee would be sold in non-quota markets at much lower than prevailing market prices.

Coffee dealers are also buying some of the surplus to be delivered later as part of Kenya's export quota for the 1981-82 season.

Reuter

Strong advance in copper

By JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

COPPER PRICES advanced strongly on the London Metal Exchange yesterday. Although some of the earlier gains were shed in late trading, cash wires bars closed £15.25 up at £56.5 a tonne after ending the morning session at £57.5. The three-months quotation for high-grade copper topped £1,000 in the morning before closing at £992.5 a tonne, £18.75 up on Friday's close.

Further reductions in U.S. interest rates, the rise in gold, a heavy fall in Metal Exchange warehouse stocks all helped encourage buying interest in early trading. But profit-taking sales came in later as gold eased.

It was reported from Quebec that negotiations over the terms of new contracts for workers at Noranda's Horne copper

smelter had been recessed and a strike vote may be taken shortly. The smelter has an annual production capacity of more than 200,000 tonnes.

London Metal Exchange warehouse stock figures issued yesterday showed that copper holdings fell last week by 2,700 tonnes to 111,780 tonnes. Zinc stocks were also down by 900 to 38,000 tonnes and lead by 600 to 43,650 tonnes.

However, tin stocks jumped by 710 tonnes to a record total of 13,500 tonnes. It is believed that the buffer stock of the International Tin Council has been selling tin steadily in recent weeks to help stabilise the market.

Over the weekend the Straits Tin price rose by 15 cents to a new peak of 35.35 Malaysian ringgit—only 12 cents below the Tin Agreement "ceiling"

where the buffer stock is supposed to sell all the tin it holds.

The rise in stocks, and the selling by the buffer stock, has helped keep London values in check, but it is understood the bulk of LME stocks are held by individual dealers, currently controlling the market. A supply squeeze could develop in October if delivery is taken of forward purchases and the stocks taken off the market.

Rumours on Friday that the Malaysian Mining Corporation was planning to cut deliveries of tin is a result of damage to tin pipes.

Other metals also closed little changed after shedding early gains. Aluminium stocks in LME warehouses rose by 1,975 to 90,775 tonnes; nickel by 432 to 2,918 tonnes, and LME silver holdings increased by 200,000 to 28,800,000 ounces.

EEC delays sugar pact decision

By JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

EEC FOREIGN ministers yesterday shelved until next month a decision on whether the Community should start negotiations on joining the International Sugar Agreement.

Unsurprisingly, France emerged as having the strongest reservations, although her Minister for European Affairs, M Andre Chardennier, did not challenge the view argued by the British and Dutch governments that the issue of ISA membership was a matter of great political importance.

Supported by the European Commission, they claimed that membership would strengthen the credibility of the Community's commitment to improving north-south relations. The ISA exists largely to stabilise world sugar prices in times of over-supply through implementation of international quotas.

However, a decision to negotiate would not be intended to imply any prior commitment by the EEC to join the ISA, but would seek instead to establish whether acceptable quotas for the Community's sugar exports could be secured.

The current agreement expires next year and the supporters of membership want the EEC to be in the ring when the International Sugar Committee meets in November to consider the future of the

arrangement.

It is suggested that the forecast size of the Community's export surplus over the next nine months—between 5m and 6m tonnes of sugar, compared to recent annual averages of 3m to 4m tonnes—could permit the developing country members of the ISA to grant a favourable quota so as to remove some of the weight of this overhang on currently depressed world prices.

Reports that hot dry weather has done more damage to the Soviet crop, than had been thought earlier also influenced the rise, as did indications that the EEC was seriously examining the possibility of joining the International Sugar Agreement. The weakness of sterling was a background feature, dealers said.

But the upsurge probably owed more to the reaction against the recent steep decline, they added. This had left the market oversold and encouraged speculators to look for excuses to buy.

Latest reports in the Soviet Press refer to patchy growth and "negative effects" on sugar beet growth following hot, dry weather earlier this summer. Subsequent heavy rain has worsened matters by encouraging strong leaf growth, they add.

Prospects of bumper crops in Europe, including Russia, had been largely responsible for the sharp decline which wiped more than 260 a tonne off world sugar prices in late summer.

EEC governments have a lever over their domestic producers, so as to cut back output and reduce surpluses.

Traditionally, France, a big sugar beet producer, has resisted any such moves. The question now is whether the high priority the new French Government attaches to better north-south relations will bring any important change of position by Paris.

Membership could also give EEC governments a lever over their domestic producers, so as to cut back output and reduce surpluses.

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uncles
bond

Because energy lending means much more than money, much of it is done by Morgan



Some of the officers in Morgan Guaranty's petroleum group at a meeting in London. From left, London head Peter Woicke, Alexander Catto, Thomas Ketchum, petroleum engineering head Suresh Chugh, New York head Edward Hoyt, Linda Whiddon.

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When you work with Morgan on an energy

loan, you get an experienced team of bankers and petroleum engineers. Our experts know how to identify and analyse all of a project's risks—political, commercial, and technical. They help structure contracts and documentation to make sure your project can get financing. And they negotiate a loan agreement that makes sense for both borrower and lender. It may be with recourse, limited-recourse, or non-recourse to the project sponsors. When the financing requires a syndicate, they know where to find participants.

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Talk with Morgan

When it comes to energy financing, consider Morgan Guaranty. From the Beaufort Sea to the North Sea, from Africa to Australia, our capabilities can match your needs.

Contact any Morgan office around the world, or write directly to Peter L. Woicke, Vice President, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Morgan House, 1 Angel Court, London EC2R 7AE.

The Morgan Bank

BORROWER PROFILE

Ankara moves towards a better rating

BY METIN MUNIR IN ISTANBUL

OVER THE past year Turkey made significant progress towards establishing domestic stability and putting its economy in order. Yet there has been little corresponding improvement in its international credit-worthiness.

The country is still near the bottom of the international credit rating list, to where it slipped nearly four years ago when the Government found itself unable to pay suppliers and service its debts. However, there are signs of improvement which indicate that before the end of the year Turkey may move higher up the list. Furthermore, bankers believe that if the present economic performance is sustained over the next 12 months the market may respond favourably to approaches from Turkey.

The Turkish central bank has retained the services of Kuhn Loeb, Lazard Frères, and Warburgs to help it eventually approach the market for syndicated loans. This year is likely to prove the best for the economy since 1977. Most economic indicators are positive.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 4 per cent, compared to stagnation in 1979 and negative in 1980. Exports, which seem to be experiencing a mini boom, are likely to increase by as much as 44 per cent, reaching \$4.2bn. Workers' remittances are expected to grow by 25 per cent reaching \$2.4bn. Capacity

utilisation at an estimated 55 per cent is still low but higher than last year by about 5 per cent. There is also modest revival in investment activity, encouraged by growing business confidence and an increase in public and private savings.

A more problematical area is government financing and borrowing requirements of the inefficient State Economic Enterprises (SEES). A major tax reform has been successfully carried through. But despite forecasts of a doubling of tax receipts, revenue may be insufficient to meet the public borrowing requirements.

Turkey's total disbursed external debt was around \$17.8bn at the end of 1980 but presents a less disturbing picture than it did several years ago. Ankara signed a series of debt reschedulings with the countries of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and commercial banks and has put forward a scheme for dissolving its non-guaranteed trade arrears to suppliers.

As a consequence, total short-term disbursed debts decreased to \$2.4bn from \$8.1bn, and medium- and long-term debts increased to \$15.8bn from \$5.5bn.

Turkey is not taking further steps to improve its debt structure. It has nearly completed renegotiating the terms on \$3.2bn-worth of commercial debt signed in 1979. This debt

was made up of a fresh money loan, existing short-term loans and overdrafts. The initial terms were for repayment over seven years with a three-year grace period. It is now to be repaid over 10 years with a five-year grace period—once the remaining three clients of about 240 banks agree. The cost of servicing medium- and long-term debt this year is forecast at \$2.4bn, about one-third of expected earnings from exports and workers' remittances. This ratio should fall to more manageable levels over coming years—to around 25 per cent in 1983 and under 20 per cent by 1985.

Turkey's medium-term debt to the banks totals \$3.1bn. The banks appear unwilling to take on further Turkey risks as long as their exposure remains outstanding. The debts to suppliers—the so-called non-guaranteed trade arrears—total \$1.3bn. A large number of suppliers are selling this debt at between 32 and 36 per cent of their face value, an indication of their lack of faith in the country's ability to repay them.

Recent developments indicate that despite the cloud cast by these debts, banks are looking more favourably on Turkey. One area in which there has been continuous favourable development over the past 10 months or so is trade credit lines. A large number of foreign banks have been extending their credit limits to the

central bank and commercial banks and improving the terms. The central bank and commercial banks are no longer obliged to deposit 100 per cent cash cover for imports. Although cash cover is still required, this is generally between 10 and 50 per cent and is getting smaller.

The development arises mainly from increased availability of foreign exchange. Also, the central bank is in the hands of such widely-respected individuals as Mr Yavuz Canevi and Mr Zekeriya Yıldırım, who, under the governorship of Mr Osman Skilar, succeeded in restoring confidence in the institution. Moreover, Turkish commercial banks have been given greater freedom to build up foreign currency reserves and to use them to finance imports.

The recent syndication of a \$100m loan by the central bank is also a good omen and an example which is likely to be followed. The loan was lead managed by the Libyan Arab Bank and funded by 10 Arab

commercial banks to enter the market for such deals.

On Turkey's prospects for entering the medium-term Euroloan market, the central bank and the foreign banks close to it seem to be in agreement. The consensus seems to be that these prospects are closely linked to the extent to which the improvement in the economy will be sustained in the second half of the year and, in particular, to how well exports and invisibles perform. It is as generally expected, the momentum is maintained, an approach by Turkey for a "small loan" in the first half of next year may be favourably received. The central bank seems to have heeded the banks' advice not to "go for a jumbo loan."

Representatives of 12 Kuwaiti banks and finance houses are to visit Turkey later this week at the invitation of the central bank, which wants Kuwait to take the lead in syndicating a medium-term programme loan of between \$150m and \$200m. The central bank said the Kuwaitis themselves had agreed in principle to put up \$50m towards the loan.

A self-liquidating loan

syndicated by American Express for the Kührer-based Turk Tuborg Company seems to have run into difficulty. Turk Tuborg, a privately-owned company whose majority equity holder is foreign, said that the repayment guarantees demanded by the banks were "too tough to accept—at this point we are at a deadlock but all hope is not lost." The medium-term loan of \$16m would have been liquidated through Tyborg's main exports.

These loans indicate that Turkey may enter the market through self-liquidating loan agreements which reduce the country risk. The central bank is being encouraged by commercial banks to enter the market for such deals.

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TURKEY

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Financial Times Tuesday September 15, 1981

Export buoyancy boosts turnover at Olivetti

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

OLIVETTI, the Italian business equipment and electronics manufacturer, yesterday announced a 24 per cent increase in turnover for the first six months of this year. It also disclosed a sharp rise in exports, sharply higher electronic typewriter sales and a marked drop in debt.

Turnover for the parent company was L1.65bn (\$54.6m), a rise of 27 per cent compared with the first half of 1980.

Group turnover was up 24 per cent at L1.193bn, from 7.8 per cent to 4.2 per cent of turnover.

The company, based at Ivrea in Northern Italy, said that the proportion of sales accounted for by electronic typewriters rose from 7.9 per cent in the first half of 1980 to 20 per cent in the first half of this year.

Information processing products accounted for 58.7 per cent of sales and other office products for 21.3 per cent.

Olivetti says its improved performance has enabled it to devote more resources to re

search and development. About 3 per cent of turnover went on research and development in 1978, the first year of Sig. Benedetti's management. This year about L1.103bn, making up 4 per cent of turnover, is likely to be spent.

About 30 per cent of the shares of Olivetti are owned by the French company, St Gobain, which is due to be nationalised under the Mitterrand Government's plan. Sig. Benedetti plays down possible concern about the future of the relationship of Olivetti with the French company.

"Olivetti is 70 per cent Italian. It is wrong to raise today the problem of the French presence in our company. It would be like saying that Fiat belongs to the Libyans," he said last week in a reference to the 10 per cent stake the Libyan Government has in Italy's biggest private enterprise.

flotation was by Hyatt Development Company, which issued shares worth HK\$450m and was 27 times oversubscribed. So far this year, 10 companies have been publicly floated and the stock exchanges have said that another eight applications have been received.

Mr Li said that he is also worried that new issues trade below their issue price, future flotations may find it difficult to gain public acceptance.

The decision by the two exchanges to halt new issues has drawn criticism from the Securities Commission, which is a semi-official body set up to maintain order in the stock market.

The Commission was opposed to the previous moratorium and has not changed its view. It has advised the stock exchanges that it would prefer to see an orderly queuing system for new issues. However, the stock exchanges unanimously see this as impractical. Merchants banks have also criticised the moratorium. They see the timing and pricing of new issues as a matter for market to determine.

New issues were halted in March this year for over two months and the action proved

successful in stemming what could have turned into a steep decline of share prices, he said.

The main market indicator, the Hang Seng Index, closed on

Friday at 1,533.85 points, com

pared with the all-time high of

1,510.20 reached on July 17.

Since the previous moratorium was lifted in May, six new issues have come to the market raising up funds of over HK\$1.6b (some U.S.\$170m). The most recent

flotation was by Hyatt Development Company, which issued shares worth HK\$450m and was 27 times oversubscribed. So far this year, 10 companies have been publicly floated and the stock exchanges have said that another eight applications have been received.

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Pre-tax profit, excluding extra ordinary items, was 7.3m ringgit, still down 47 per cent from a year earlier, but investment in German B. Aranaze of the Philippines led to a fall in coffee production.

Turnover fell 7.1m to 18.7m. This was the result of a fall of 12.1m in coffee sales, because of the sharp fall in the world market price, and an increase of 1.8m in other sales.

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Depreciation rose 10 per cent to 1.6m in the 1981 first half, and the net interest charge was 21 per cent higher at 1.2m.

Hagemeyer has acquired a half share in Technische Warenfabrikation und Vertriebe, a West German trading company which imports and distributes audio and video equipment.

Weaker commodity prices also affected the company's interests in cocoa plantations. North Borneo has declared a 5 sen final dividend compared with 10 sen a year earlier.

AP-DJ

Hagemeyer lifts first-half profit despite lower sales

BY CHARLES BACHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

HAGEMEYER, THE Dutch trading and industrial group, reports higher first-half profits on turnover depressed by a fall in the world market price for coffee.

Trading profit, before depreciation and tax, rose 11 per cent to Fl 36.9m (\$14m) in the first six months of 1981. Net profit rose to Fl 1.5m from Fl 1m, confirming that profits are continuing to recover gradually.

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Depreciation rose 10 per cent to 1.6m in the 1981 first half, and the net interest charge was 21 per cent higher at 1.2m.

Net profit rose to Fl 10.3m from Fl 5.2m in the same 1980 half on sales which were 11 per cent higher at Fl 1.4bn.

The increase in turnover was largely the result of rises in the price of raw materials.

Trading profit rose 18 per cent

\$18M ACTION OVER IWASAWA BAD DEBT

Chase files suit against Tokai Bank

BY RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

CHASE MANHATTAN has carried forward the legal battle over responsibility for losses resulting from loans obtained by the troubled Iwasawa group of companies in Hokkaido, northern Japan.

Chase is the first foreign bank to take the problem to court. It launched last week a suit involving \$18m in a U.S. District court in New York against Tokai Bank of Nagoya. Two other suits are being brought in Japan involving the defunct Japanese companies and the former leader of the group, Mr Osamu Iwasawa.

The companies are Hokkaido Television Broadcasting, Sapporo Toyopet (currently in receivership), and Kinsel Motors. Tokai Bank is a main backer of the Iwasawa group. Chase has emerged as the largest foreign lender.

There are 11 other foreign bank branches in Japan involved in loans (which totalled over \$100m when the crisis broke to the Iwasawa group). Chase has taken its legal action in New York on the basis of what it claims are "letters of guarantee" from Tokai Bank on the loans. Only

three of the foreign banks involved hold such letters from Tokai.

To date none of the other banks have taken legal steps against either Tokai Bank, one of Japan's powerful "city" banks, or the companies

Chase Manhattan filed on September 8 in Tokyo District Court for a ruling establishing the legality of promissory notes it had from Hokkaido Television Broadcasting and Kinsel Motors. A hearing is scheduled for October 8. Chase accounts for slightly less than 15% of the foreign bank loans outstanding to the Iwasawa group.

One banker involved estimated the total at Y7.2bn against a reported Y22bn outstanding when the group's troubles became known. Some banks, it seems, have cashed in on collateral.

In addition, this week Chase is taking the extraordinary step of a foreign bank of filing a suit against an individual, in Hokkaido District Court against Mr Osamu Iwasawa, the founder and erstwhile leader of the Iwasawa group. Mr Iwasawa's name appears as guarantor for the

loans. Tokai, along with a number of other Japanese banks also has extensive loans outstanding to the Iwasawa group.

Tokai has not commented on the suit filed in the U.S. by Chase.

Chase would be willing to withdraw the suits if any of the parties involved was willing to arrange to make good the loans. Tokai Bank's own position in the matter, however, makes an out-of-court settlement a sensitive issue.

The foreign banks involved divide into two groups. Chase and two others with letters from Tokai Bank. The rest are relying on negotiations with Tokai Bank and the companies involved in finding a settlement.

It appears that the banks would be willing to take some losses, just to resolve the problem. A failure to reach an acceptable agreement, it is feared, could cause serious strains on the business relationships which Tokai Bank enjoys with any of the banks internationally.

The Japanese authorities so far have not become involved in the dispute between the foreign banks and Tokai Bank.

Securities houses to make scrip issues

By Our Financial Staff

FOUR MAJOR Japanese securities companies have said they will make scrip issues given their expectations of sharp price increases.

Nomura Securities Company will make a 3-for-100 issue and Nikko Securities Company, Daiwa Securities Company, and Yamaichi Securities Company will make 5-for-100 issues.

The companies said the issues would help distribute the substantial profits expected for the year ending this month following active foreign purchases of Japanese stocks during the period, and would also return to shareholders the premiums prompted by capital issues at market prices in the past year.

Nomura plans to raise its dividend payment to Y7 per Y50 share for the year from Y6 last year. The company is expecting a 23 per cent rise in its after-tax profit to a record Y48m (\$19m).

The other companies plan to maintain their dividends at Y6.

Nikko expects a 31 per cent rise after-tax profit to a record Y24m. Daiwa a 60 per cent rise to a record Y20m, and Yamaichi a 29 per cent rise to Y15m.

Net foreign sales of Japanese stocks in the first week of September rose sharply to Y44.95bn from Y34.57bn in the fourth week of August.

This is the second highest level on record, after the Y47.20bn of the fourth week in July.

Foreign sales through 12 Japanese securities houses in the September week fell by 7.7 per cent to Y33.33bn from the preceding week, while purchases fell by 31.1 per cent to Y38.44bn, the lowest level since the Y33.85bn of the fourth week of last December.

Setback at Mitsubishi Chemical

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

MITSUBISHI Chemical Industries, Japan's largest chemical company, suffered a steep fall in earnings for the half-year to July 31 1981. The setback is attributed to delayed inventory adjustment caused by a drop in demand following speculative demand the previous year.

Half-year operating profits fell by 90.5 per cent to Y1.56bn (\$6.7m). Net profits were 70.3 per cent lower at Y2.32bn on sales of Y364.61bn (\$1.8bn), down 13.3 per cent from the year earlier level. Half-year profits per share were Y2.21, compared with Y7.82.

Sales by the company's carbon products division fell by 2.1 per cent to account for 30.7 per cent of the total, while the petrochemical division saw a

sales setback of 23.1 per cent to account for 42.7 per cent. As well as stagnant demand, sales were hit by the inflow of American semi-processed products, encouraged by the sharp fall of the yen at the time.

The company's exports fell by 18 per cent to account for 12.1 per cent of total turnover.

The Japanese chemical industry sees no sign of improvement in demand in the rest of the current year, and manufacturers are planning to increase prices to stem operating losses.

Mitsubishi Chemical expects an improvement in sales for the year to end January but the offering is expected to expire on October 16.

SA deal to form major Zimbabwe cement group

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

PORLAND HOLDINGS, the Zimbabwean company whose main interest is a 50 per cent stake in the cement producer United Portland Cement, is to buy 50.5 per cent of the company's other major cement producer, Premier Portland Cement, from that company's controlling South African shareholders.

Pretoria Portland Cement, which is 54 per cent-owned by Barlow Rand, The Barlow Pension Fund, and Amosite Holdings, have agreed to sell 1.22m shares in Premier Portland to Portland Holdings at \$22.85 per share.

A similar offer will be made to other shareholders, but if the Zimbabwean Government promulgates a capital gains tax before the end of this year,

Advance by Singapore Airlines

By Our Financial Staff

SINGAPORE AIRLINES, or SIA, increased airline profits after tax by 38.6 per cent in the year to March 31, to \$89.4m (\$36.5m), with the inclusion of dividends from subsidiaries and exceptional items raised by the sale of old aircraft.

At group level, profits after tax were \$311.7m, for a gain of 31.3 per cent. Parent airline

company total revenue exceeded \$822m for the first time, rising 21.1 per cent to \$2.39bn (U.S.\$1.1bn). Group revenue was up 29.9 per cent to \$82.46bn.

The parent company profit before tax from airline operations showed a gain of 16 per cent to \$81.2m.

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

U.S. \$30,000,000

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(Incorporated in the Republic of Korea under the Korea Exchange Bank Act of 1966).

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September 8, 1981

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Aktiebolaget Svensk Exportkredit

Kuwaiti Dinars 7,000,000

10 per cent Notes due 1986

Kuwait International Investment Co. s.a.k.

Alahli Bank of Kuwait (KSC) The Gulf Bank, K.S.C.

The Industrial Bank of Kuwait, KSC

Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting

& Investment Co. (S.A.K.)

Kuwait Investment Company (S.A.K.)

The National Bank of Kuwait, S.A.K.

Svenska Handelsbanken

Post-och Kreditbanken, PKbanken

Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken

Arab International Securities Limited Arab Trust Company KSC

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait BSC Crédit Lyonnais

Drexel Burnham Lambert Incorporated Kuwait International Finance Company SAK ("KIFCO")

Kuwait Pacific Finance Company Limited

September, 1981.

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

£30,000,000

Nippon Electric Co.,Ltd.

(Nippon Denki Kabushiki Kaisha)

(Incorporated with limited liability under the Commercial Code of Japan)

5 3/4% Convertible Bonds Due 1996

NEC

The following have agreed to subscribe or procure subscribers for the Bonds:

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

Kleinwort, Benson Limited

Nomura International Limited

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited

Sumitomo Finance International

Daiwa Europe Limited

Robert Fleming & Co. Limited

J. Henry Schroder Wag & Co. Limited

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

The Convertible Bonds Due 1996 of £1,000 each, issued at 100 per cent, have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange, subject only to the issue of the Bonds.

Interest is payable semi-annually, in arrears, on 31st March and 30th September in each year, except that the first interest payment will be made on 31st March, 1982 in respect of the period from 28th September, 1981 to 31st March, 1982.

Particulars of the Bonds are available in the Exetel Statistical Service and may be obtained during usual business hours up to and including 29th September, 1981 from the brokers to the issue:

Vickers da Costa Limited,
Regis House, King William Street,
London EC4R 9AR.

Rowe & Pitman,
City Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square,
London EC2A 1JA.

15th September, 1981



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